3
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI

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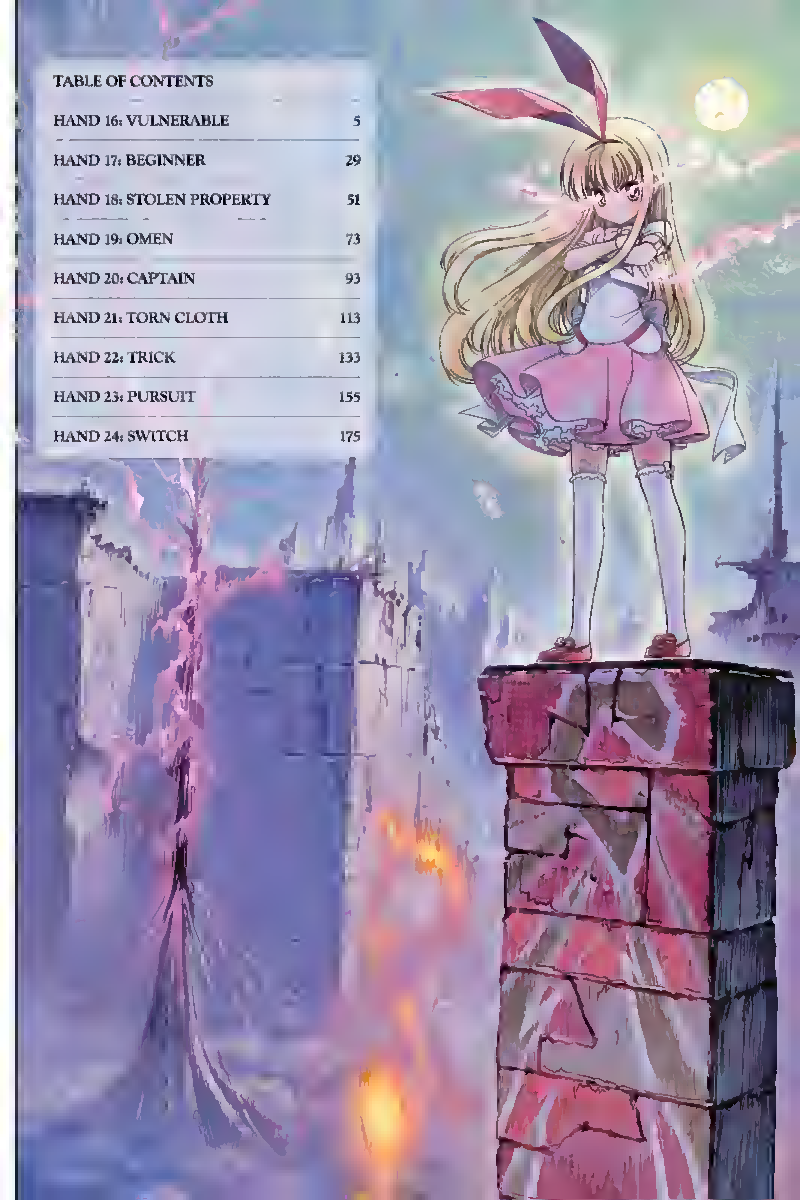


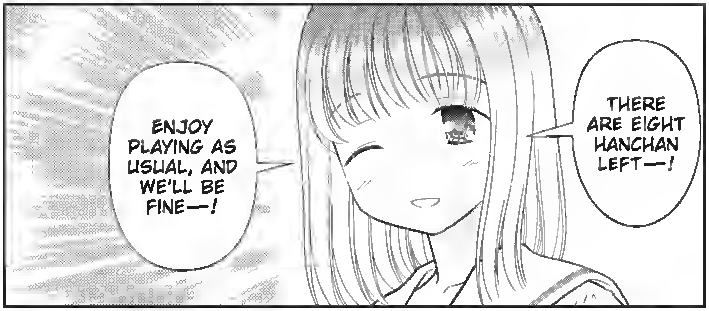
ROAR
The first round of the pre-fectural qualifier finals —!!
Kazekoshi Girls' came from behind and is currently on top!!
DAMMIT!
THE COST OF MY BENTO WAS EXPENSIVE ...

HAND 16: VULNERABLE

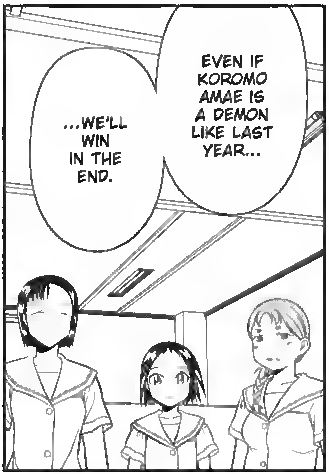
WELL, SEE YOU, YAKITORI TACO.

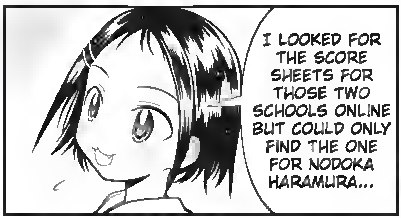
A TACO GRUDGE IS A SCARY THING!
REMEMBER THAT!
YOUR TREAT WAS DELICIOUS.

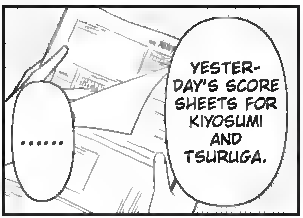
CAPTAIN!
GREAT JOB!!
YOU ANNIHI-LATED RYUMON-BUCHI!!
YES, WELL DONE
THANK YOU!

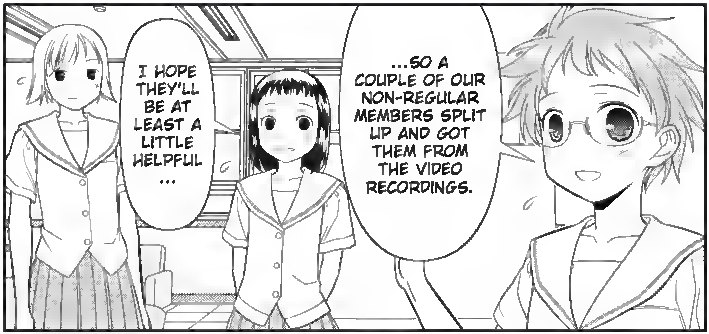

THERE ARE EIGHT HANCHAN LEFT—!
ENJOY PLAYING AS USUAL, AND WE'LL BE FINE—!

HERE, CAPTAIN ...
OH...
WHAT IS IT?

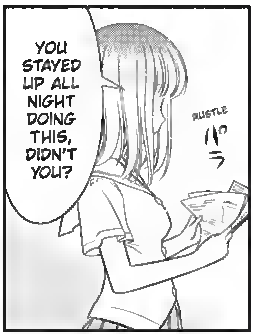

EVEN IF KOROMO AMAE IS A DEMON LIKE LAST YEAR...
...WE'LL WIN IN THE END.


I LOOKED FOR THE SCORE SHEETS FOR THOSE TWO SCHOOLS ONLINE BUT COULD ONLY FIND THE ONE FOR NODOKA HARAMURA...


YESTER-DAY'S SCORE SHEETS FOR KIYOSUMI AND TSURUGA.
.....


I HOPE THEY'LL BE AT LEAST A LITTLE HELPFUL...
...SO A COUPLE OF OUR NON-REGULAR MEMBERS SPLIT UP AND GOT THEM FROM THE VIDEO RECORDINGS.

THANK YOU...
TROPE


YOU STAYED UP ALL NIGHT DOING THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
RUSTLE

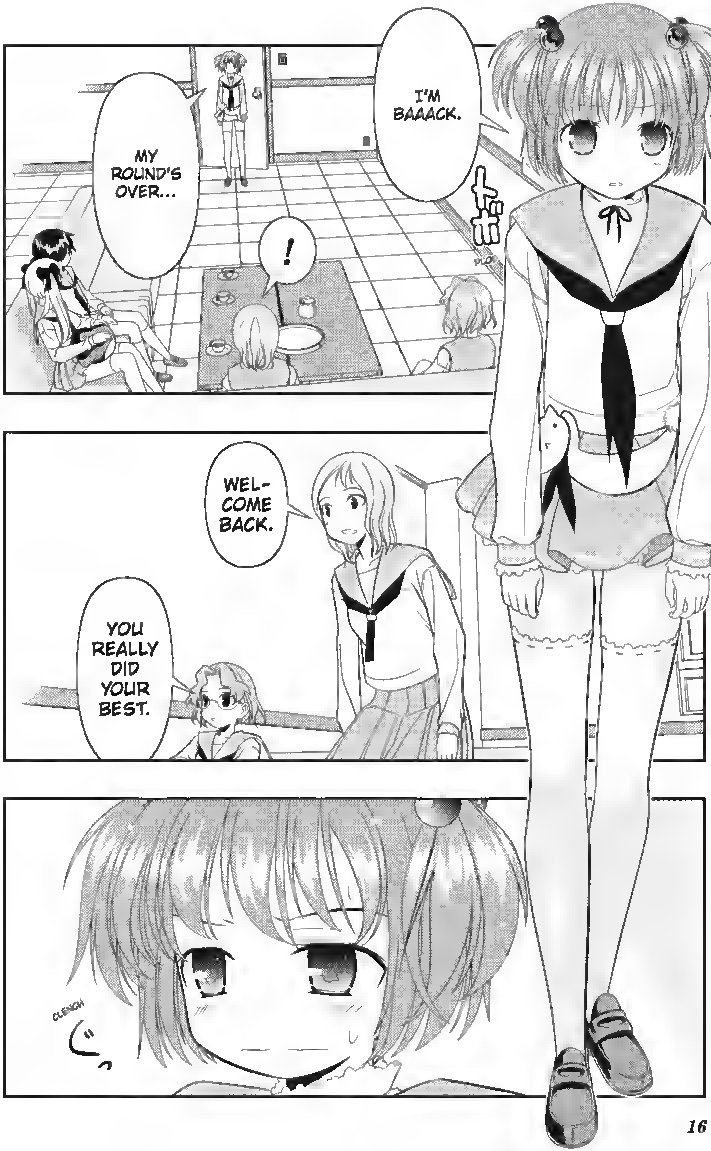
I'M SORRY.
WE ALL KNOW YOU'RE LOUSY WITH MACHINES CAPTAIN!
I'M SORRY... I WISH I COULD'VE DONE THIS MYSELF...
AAAH! AS USUAL, YOU'RE MOVED TO TEARS WAY TOO EASILY!

UGH...
Ryumonbuc
Waiting Roon
GRRRR!
MAN, THAT GIRL TICKS ME OFF !!
I WAS WINNING BY A HUGE MARGIN!
OKAY, OKAY ...
WHEN TOKA WAS SUPER-LUCKY DURING THE GAME, THE GIRL CLEVERLY USED THE OTHER PLAYERS TO HOLD HER BACK.
THAT KAZEKOSHI GIRL WAS PRETTY STRONG LAST YEAR TOO.

BUT EVEN SO...
BE A MAN AND JUST ACCEPT THAT YOU LOST.
I'M A WOMAN!
...IT WAS FUN.
I'D LIKE TO PLAY AGAINST THEM AGAIN.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

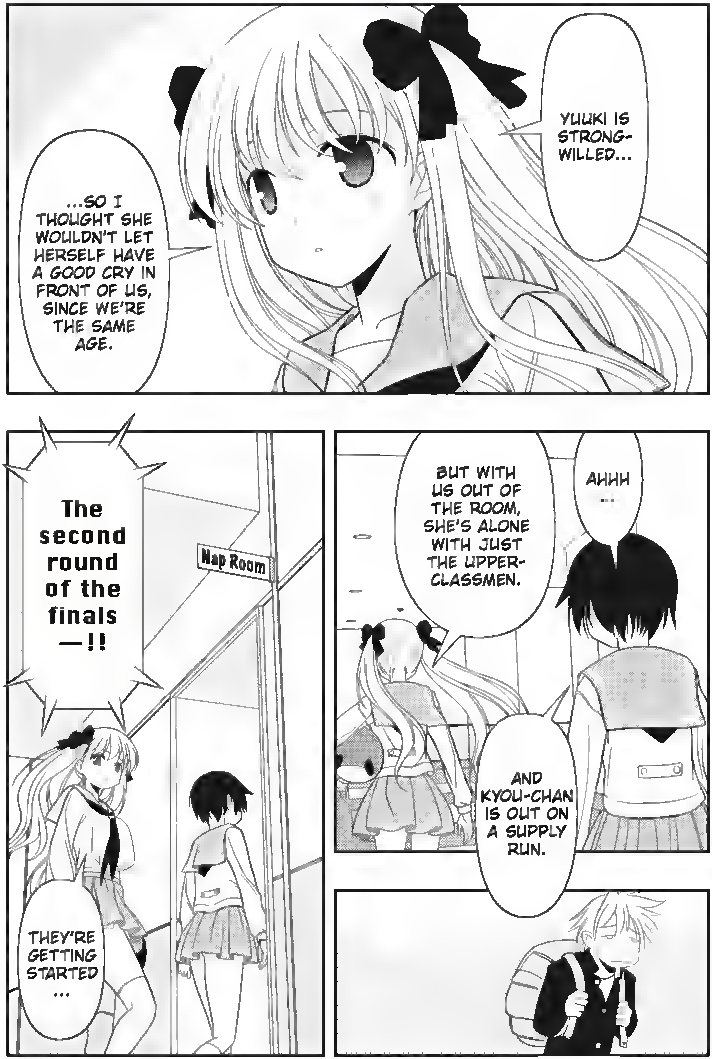
ARE YOU SLEEPY?
OH...
YAWN
.....
YAWN
..
ON TOP OF HAVING TO GET UP EARLY THIS MORNING...
...I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
HMM...
WELL, THAT'S NOT GOOD...

SO WHY DON'T BOTH OF YOU CATCH A FEW Z'S IN THE NAP ROOM?
I'LL WAKE YOU UP LATER
HUH?
SAKI, YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN SEVEN HOURS BEFORE YOU PLAY...
...AND, NODOKA, YOU'VE GOT A GOOD FIVE HOURS.
?
Y...
YOU MEAN SLEEP INSTEAD OF CHEERING YOU ON?
THERE'S NO WAY!
I CAN'T DO THAT.
HEAR, HEAR!
I'D RATHER GO WITHOUT A CHEERING SECTION THAN HAVE YOU PLAY LACKLUSTER MAHJONG BECAUSE YOU'RE SLEEPY.


I'M BAAACK.
PLOD
MY ROUND'S OVER...
!
WEL-COME BACK.
YOU REALLY DID YOUR BEST.
CLENCH

LET'S GO TO THE NAP ROOM, MIYANAGA-SAN.
FWOO
WHA .....?
SLAM
WHOA!
COME ON!
IT'S BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!
.....
PAT
SECOND PLACE AMONG THOSE MEMBERS? YOU PUT UP A HECK OF A FIGHT.

REALLY, YOU DID GREAT!
HLLP...
SNIFF
WAAAAAAH!
WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE ON 'EM!
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO THE NAP ROOM...


YUUKI IS STRONG-WILLED...
...SO I THOUGHT SHE WOULDN'T LET HERSELF HAVE A GOOD CRY IN FRONT OF US, SINCE WE'RE THE SAME AGE.
AHHH...
BUT WITH US OUT OF THE ROOM, SHE'S ALONE WITH JUST THE UPPER-CLASSMEN.
AND KYOU-CHAN IS OUT ON A SUPPLY RUN.
The second round of the finals —!!
Nap Room
THEY'RE GETTING STARTED...

Can second-year *Miharu Yoshitome* maintain the lead for Kazekoshi Girls'!?
GOOD LUCK, MIHA-RUN!

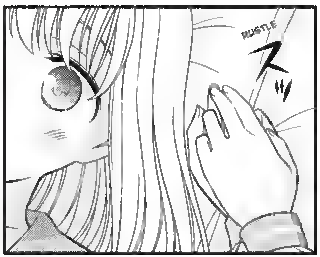
Will Tsuruga Academy's second-year *Kaori Senoo* be able to recover?
DON'T PUSH ME!

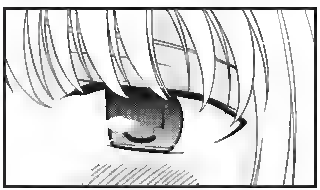
From Kiyosumi High School, second-year *Mako Someya*!
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU WHEN I SEE YOU—!
And from Ayumon-buchi High School, second-year *Tomoki Sawa-mura*!

We'll begin in just a moment—!!
LET'S TURN OFF THE SPEAKER.
THE SHEETS ARE CLEAN, AND THE FUTON IS SOFT AND FLUFFY.
NOBODY ELSE IS HERE...
AFTER CAMP, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME...
FOR US TO SLEEP TOGETHER.
BACK THEN ...?
BACK THEN, I DIDN'T THINK WE COULD BECOME FRIENDS LIKE THIS.

P—
PLEASE FORGET ABOUT THAT ALREADY.

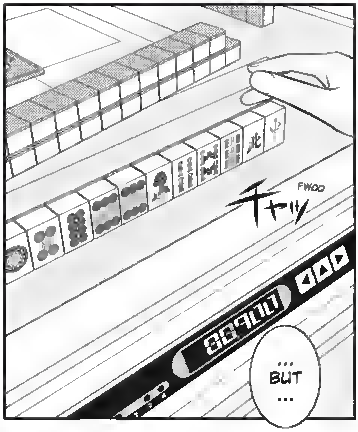
I WANT YOU TO DROP OUT OF THE CLUB.
AROUND THE TIME YOU SAID THAT TO ME...

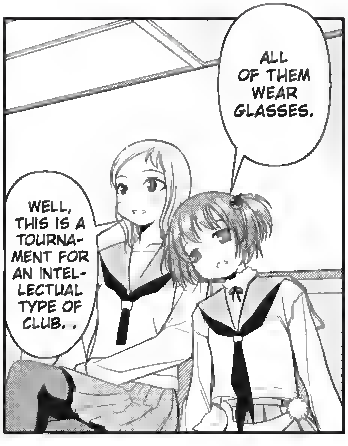

RUSTLE

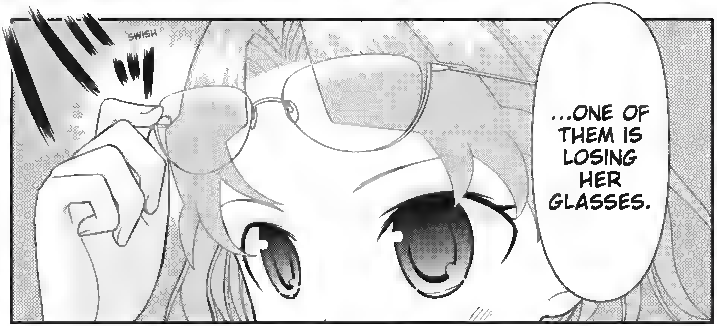


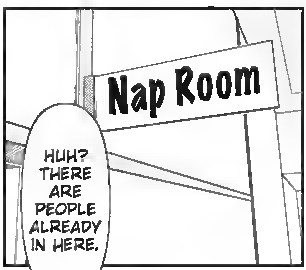
WHEN WE WAKE UP, IT'LL BE OUR TURN —
LET'S WIN FOR SURE ...

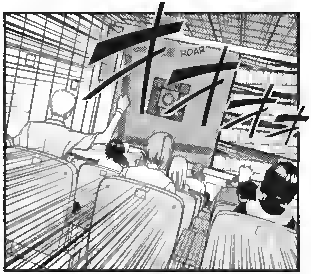
...AND THEN GO TO NATION-ALS!!


FWOO
...BUT...


ALL OF THEM WEAR GLASSES.
WELL, THIS IS A TOURNAMENT FOR AN INTELLECTUAL TYPE OF CLUB..


SWISH
...ONE OF THEM IS LOSING HER GLASSES.

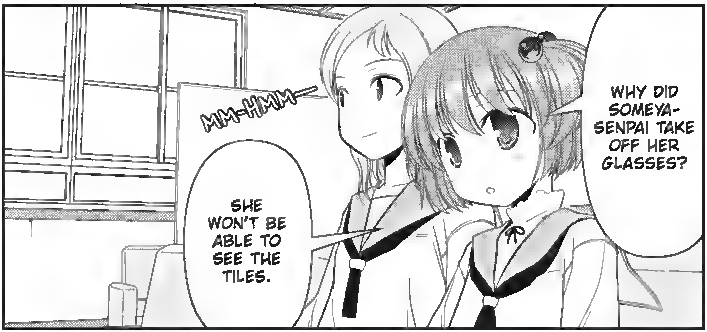

Nap Room
HUH? THERE ARE PEOPLE ALREADY IN HERE.

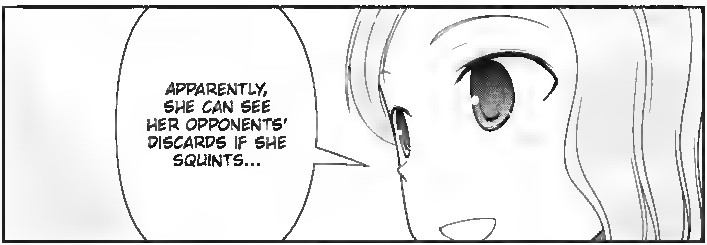

HOAR

IS THAT NODOKA HARAMURA?
WOW! YEAH, IT IS.
AND SHE'S GOT THAT PENGUIN WITH HER AGAIN.
HEY...
...WHY DON'T WE PLAY A LITTLE PRANK?

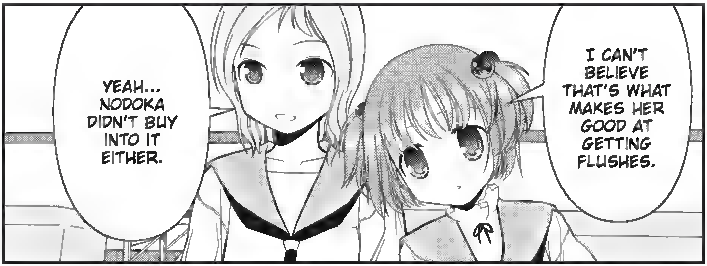
HAND 17: BEGINNER

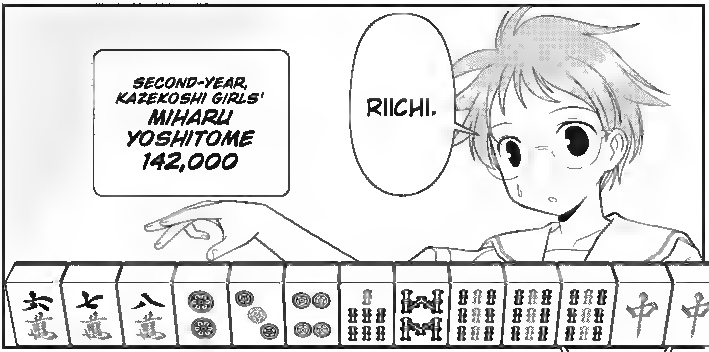
EAST HAND 1, SOUTH PLAYER
SECOND-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
MAKO SOMEYA
88,900

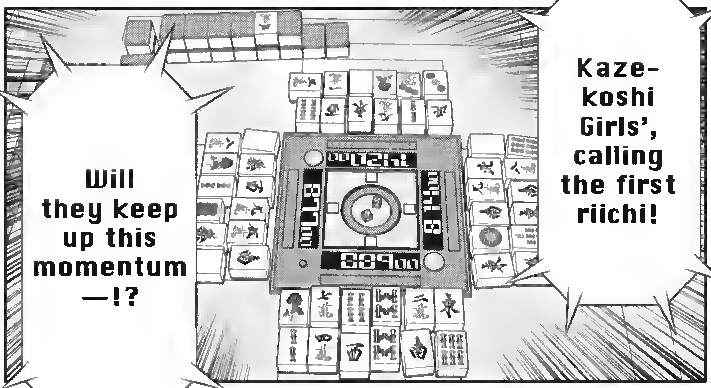

WHY DID SOMEYA-SENPAI TAKE OFF HER GLASSES?
HMM-HMM—
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE TILES.


APPARENTLY, SHE CAN SEE HER OPPONENTS' DISCARDS IF SHE SQUINTS...

...BUT MAKO GREW UP WITH MAHJONG SO SHE'S SEEN AN INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF MATCHES
AND SHE'S RETAINED A MENTAL IMAGE OF MOST OF THEM.
WHEN SHE TAKES OFF HER GLASSES, EVERYTHING GETS BLURRY...
...BUT IT LETS HER RECALL PAST SCENES WITH A TABLE THAT WAS SET UP SIMILARLY.

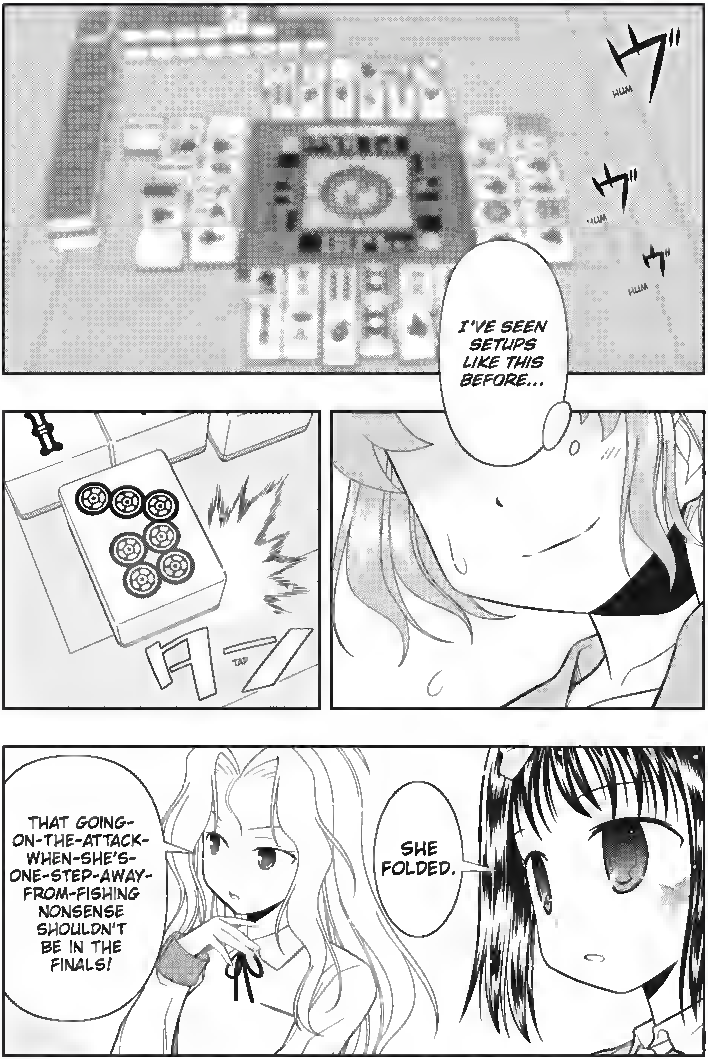

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT MAKES HER GOOD AT GETTING FLUSHES.
YEAH... NODOKA DIDN'T BUY INTO IT EITHER.


RIICHI.
SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' MIHARU YOSHITOME 142,000

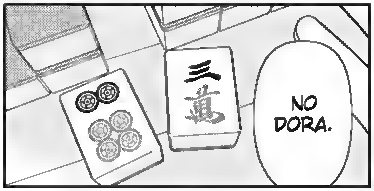

Kaze-koshi Girls', calling the first riichi!
Will they keep up this momentum —!?

ゴソ
SHE'S DISCARDING ANOTHER PLAYER'S WINNING TILE, RIGHT?
I WOULD FOLD IF I WERE HER...

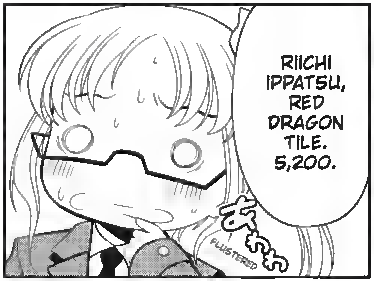
...BUT LET'S SEE WHAT SHE DOES.
ゴゴ

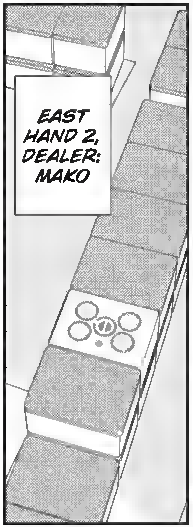

I'VE SEEN SETUPS LIKE THIS BEFORE...
TAP
SHE FOLDED.
THAT GOING-ON-THE-ATTACK-WHEN-SHE'S-ONE-STEP-AWAY-FROM-FISHING NONSENSE SHOULDN'T BE IN THE FINALS!

SECOND-YEAR,
TSURUGA ACADEMY
KAORI
SENOO
81,400
FWOO
チャッ
TAP
トン
I DON'T NEED THIS, RIGHT ...?
WHAT WAS THAT —!?
ナデナデ

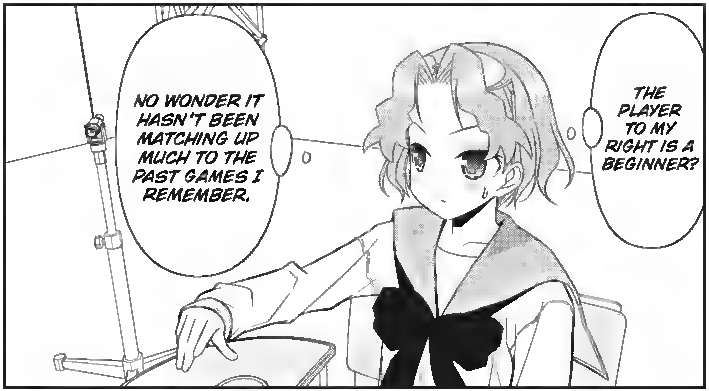

NO DORA.

RON.
EEEK!

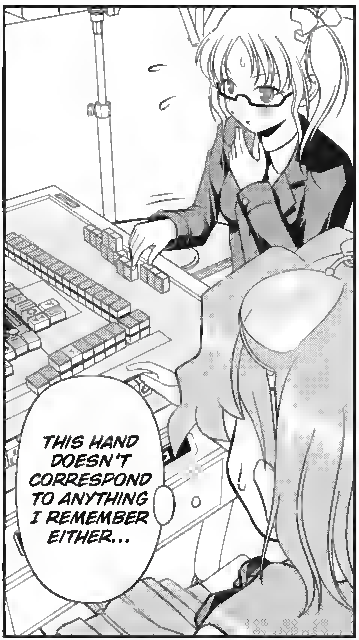

RIICHI IPPATSU, RED DRAGON TILE. 5,200.
FLUSTERED


EAST HAND 2, DEALER: MAKO

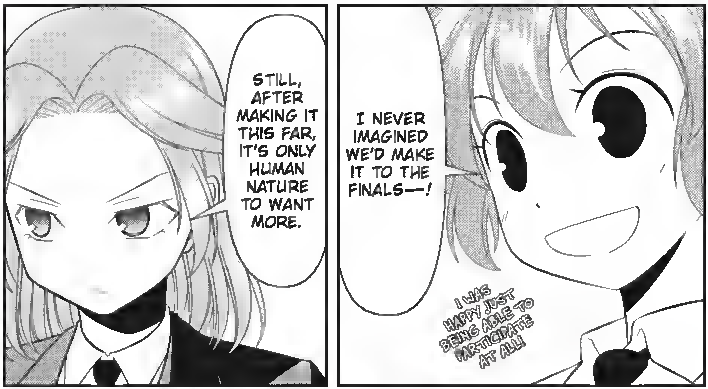
NAH, SHE'S JUST A RANK AMATEUR! GET 'ER, MIHARUN!!
DISCARDING A LIVE RED DRAGON TILE ON A FIRST ROUND RIICHI WHEN SHE'S TWO AWAY FROM TENPAI... THAT'S GUTSY...
AHHH—
AHHH—

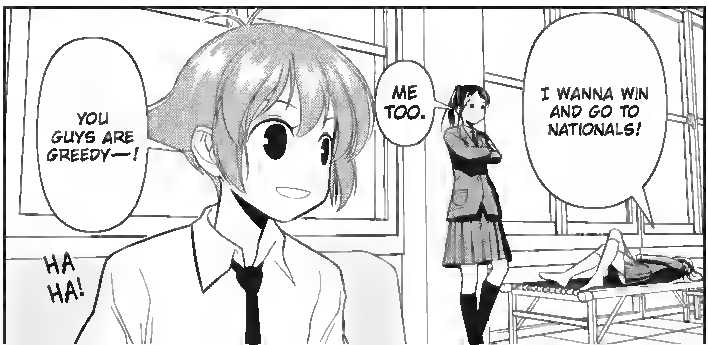

THE PLAYER TO MY RIGHT IS A BEGINNER?
NO WONDER IT HASN'T BEEN MATCHING UP MUCH TO THE PAST GAMES I REMEMBER.

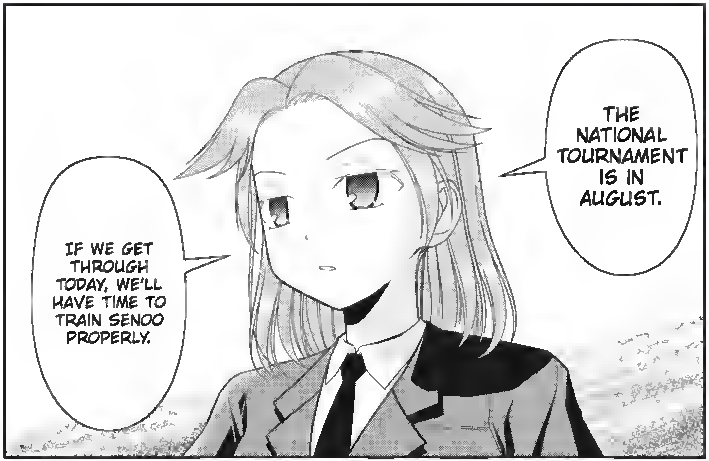
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE MEMORY THAT'S CLOSE TO THIS SITUATION —!!
NEWBIES DON'T COME TO OUR PLACE...


THIS HAND DOESN'T CORRESPOND TO ANYTHING I REMEMBER EITHER...

...WE WERE ABLE TO ENTER THE TOURNA-MENT AS A TEAM.
BUT THANKS TO HER JOINING THE CLUB...
KAORI IS PLAYING AS LOUSY AS EVER.
HA HA HA!
Tsuruga Academ
Waiting Roo

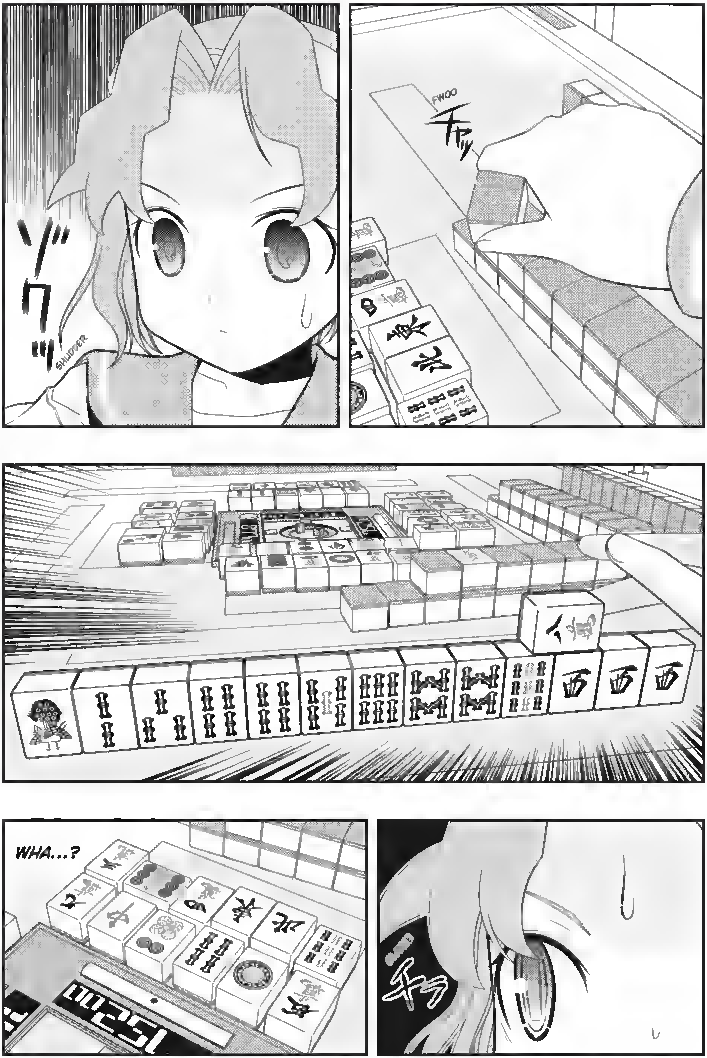

STILL, AFTER MAKING IT THIS FAR, IT'S ONLY HUMAN NATURE TO WANT MORE.
I NEVER IMAGINED WE'D MAKE IT TO THE FINALS—!
I WAS HAPPY JUST BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL!

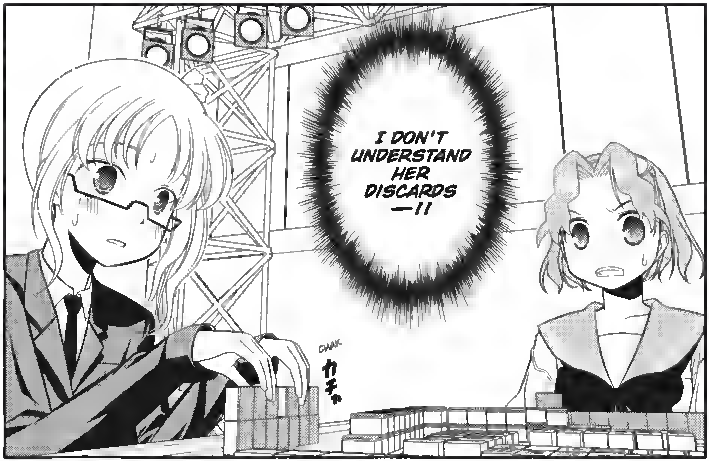

YOU GUYS ARE GREEDY—!
HA HA!
ME TOO.
I WANNA WIN AND GO TO NATIONALS!

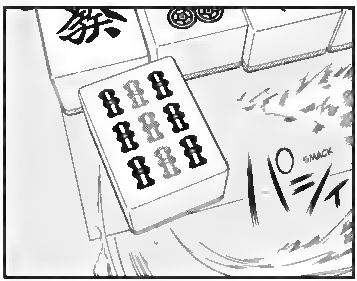

THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT IS IN AUGUST.
IF WE GET THROUGH TODAY, WE'LL HAVE TIME TO TRAIN SENOO PROPERLY.

IF WE CAN JUST GET THROUGH TODAY—!!
THREE AT A TIME, THREE AT A TIME...

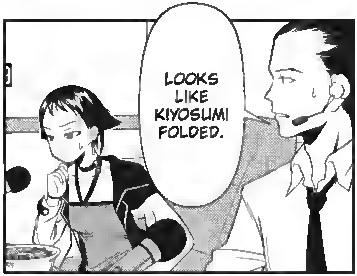
I-I-I GOT IT!
?
AH!
I...
I CALL RIICHI !!
TWO TURNS LATER
WHAT ABOUT THE RIICHI STICK?
THUMP THUMP
ドキドキ
AH!


ゾワ
shiver
FWOO
WHA...?

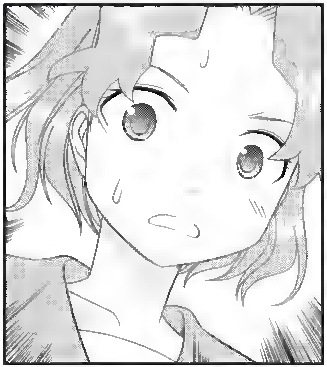

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HER DISCARDS —!!
CHAK
カチャ


SMACK

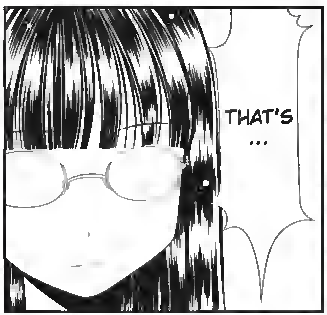
ARGH...

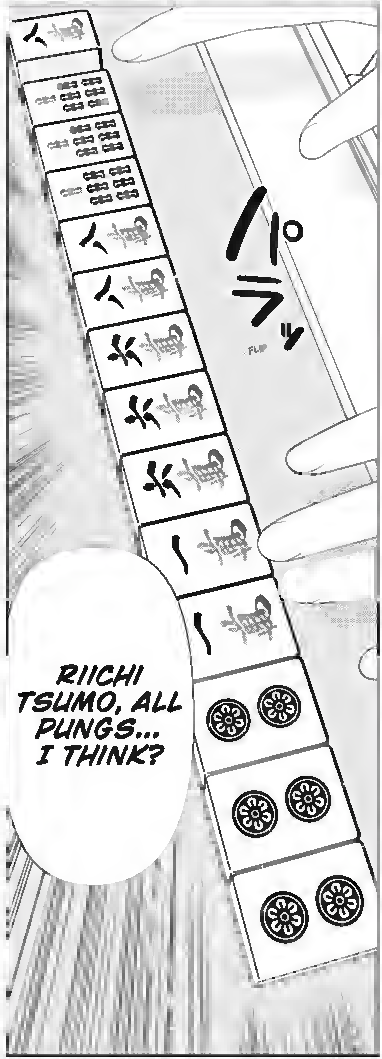

LOOKS LIKE KIYOSUMI FOLDED.

TSU...
FWOO
REVERSE DORA—
TSUMO!
AH!
AND WHAT'S YOUR HAND...?
NONE...



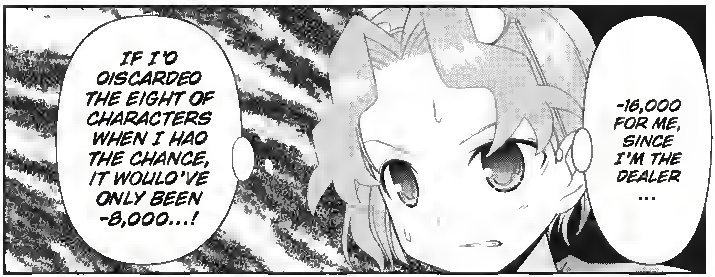
TH...


THAT'S ...


RIICHI TSUMO, ALL PUNGS... I THINK?
FLIP

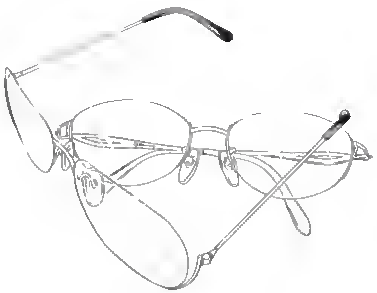
WH...
WHAT'S THAT!?
FLUSTERED
あわわ
THE EASIEST YAKUMAN TO GET...
YOU'RE NOT THE DEALER, SO IT'S 32,000 POINTS.
!?
...FOUR CONCEALED TRIPLETS!!

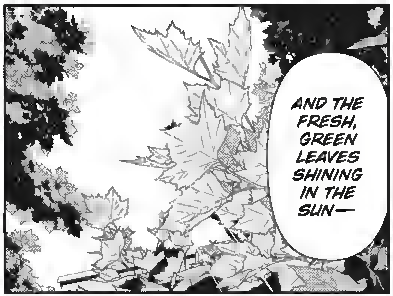
SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
MIHARU YOSHITOME
-8,000
(139,200)
SECOND-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
KAORI SENOO
+32,000
(108,200)
SECOND-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
MAKO SOMEYA
-16,000
(72,900)
SECOND-YEAR, RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
TOMOKI SAWAMURA
-8,000
(79,700)


IF I'D DISCARDED THE EIGHT OF CHARACTERS WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE, IT WOULD'VE ONLY BEEN -8,000...!
-16,000 FOR ME, SINCE I'M THE DEALER ...

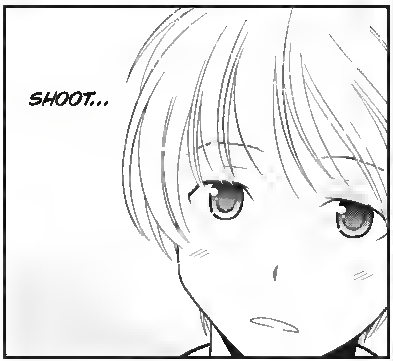
I'M OFF TO A TERRIBLE START—!!

Saki



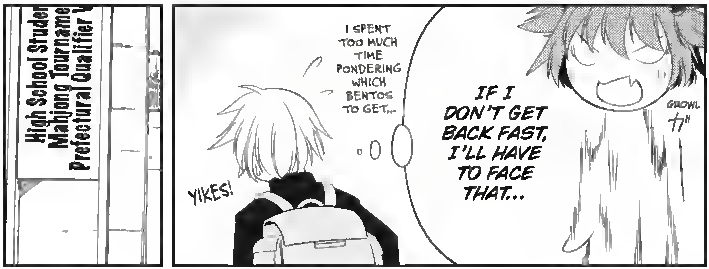

AND THE FRESH, GREEN LEAVES SHINING IN THE SUN—

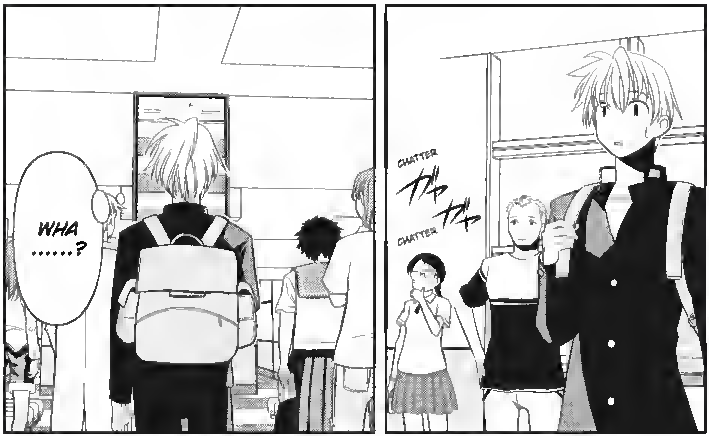
BEAUTIFUL WEATHER TODAY...

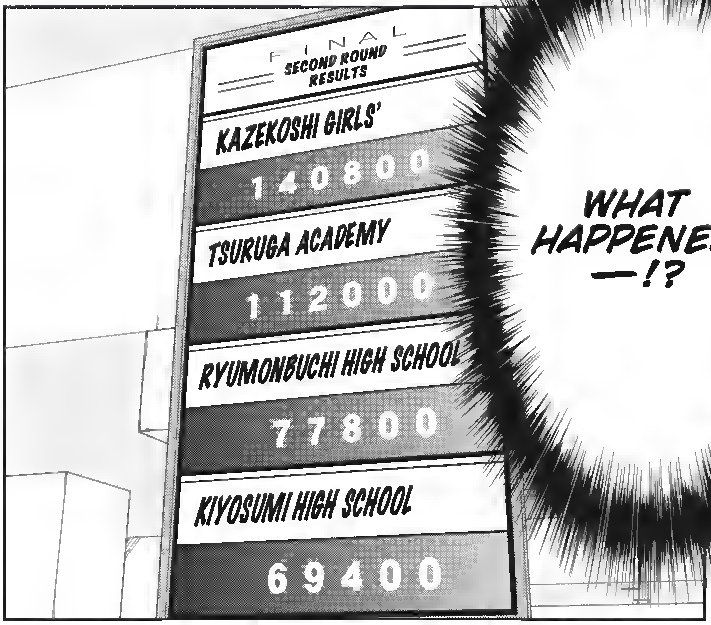

SHOOT...

HAND 18: STOLEN PROPERTY

CLICK
カチャ
11:51
THE SECOND ROUND SHOULD BE OVER ANY MINUTE!
WHAT AM I DOING?
ACK!

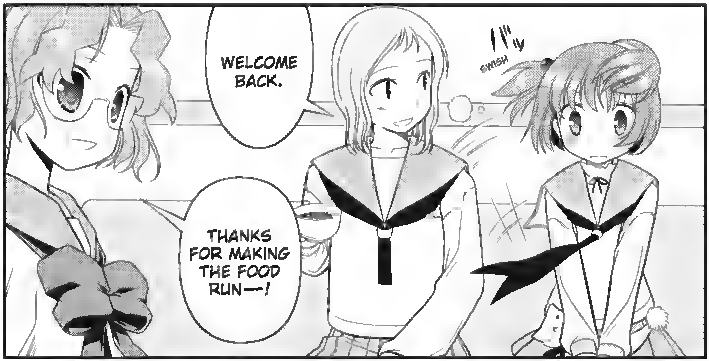

High School Studen
Mahjong Tourname
Prefectural Qualifier
I SPENT TOO MUCH TIME PONDERING WHICH BENTOS TO GET...
YIKES!
IF I DON'T GET BACK FAST, I'LL HAVE TO FACE THAT...
GROWL
ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ


WHA .....?
CHATTER
ｶﾔｶﾔ
CHATTER
ｶﾔｶﾔ

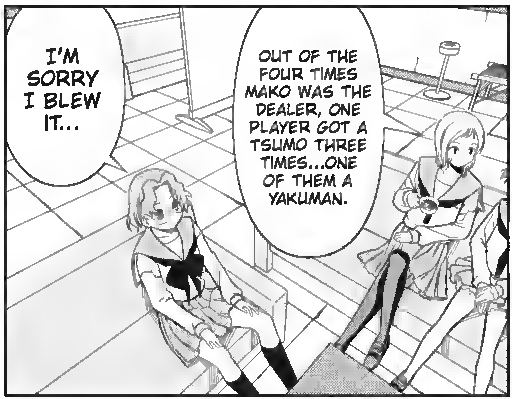

FINAL
SECOND ROUND RESULTS
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS'
140800
TSURUGA ACADEMY
112000
RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
77800
KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
69400
WHAT HAPPENED —!?

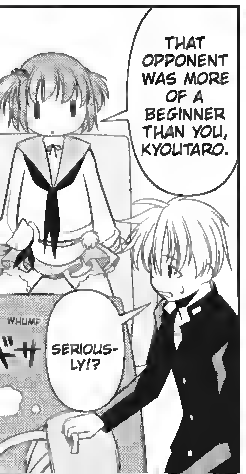
I'M BACK.
CHAK
ガチャ

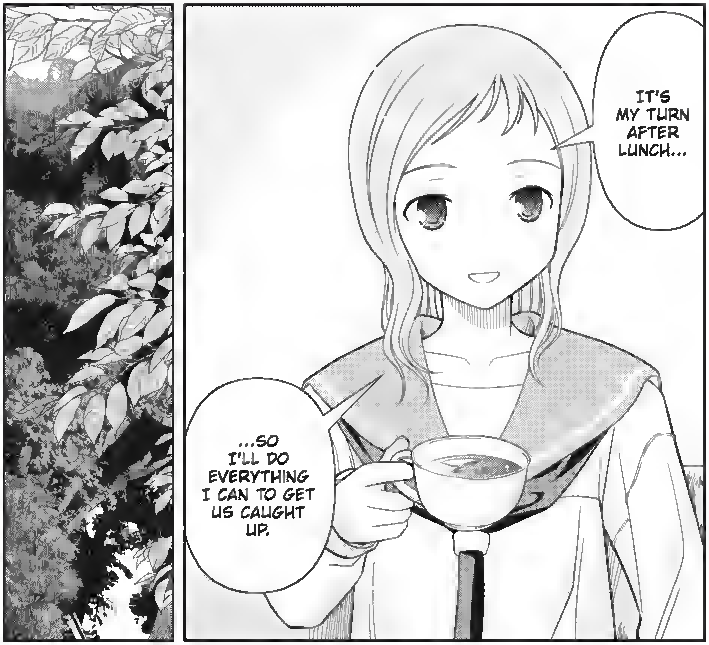
Waiting Room

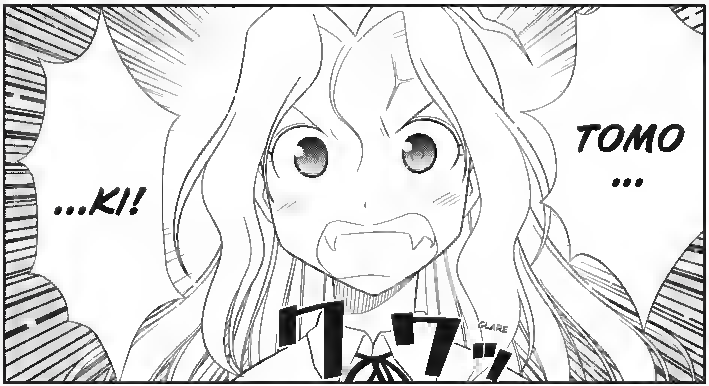

WELCOME BACK.
SWISH
THANKS FOR MAKING THE FOOD RUN—!

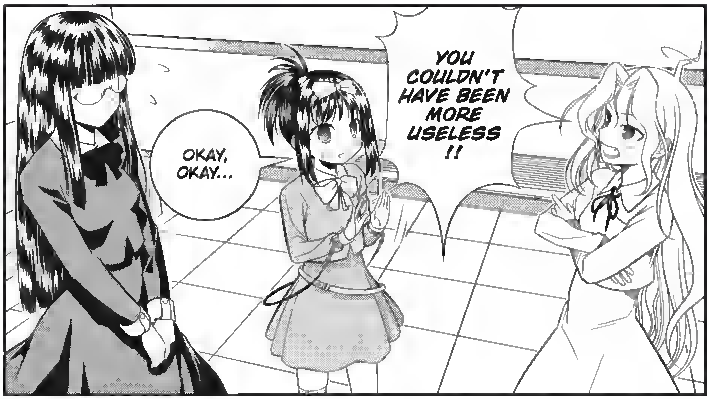
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO ASK THIS...
...BUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SECOND ROUND?

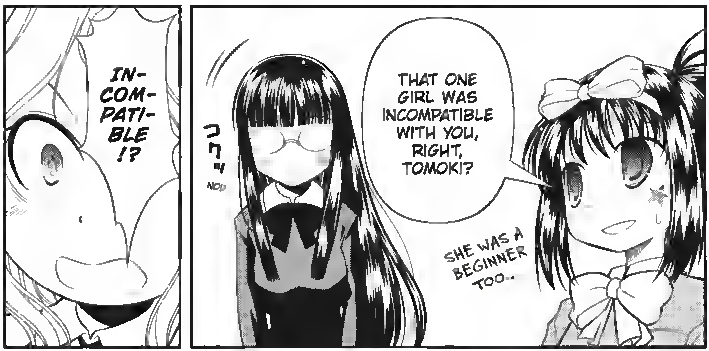

I'M SORRY I BLEW IT...
OUT OF THE FOUR TIMES MAKO WAS THE DEALER, ONE PLAYER GOT A TSUMO THREE TIMES...ONE OF THEM A YAKUMAN.

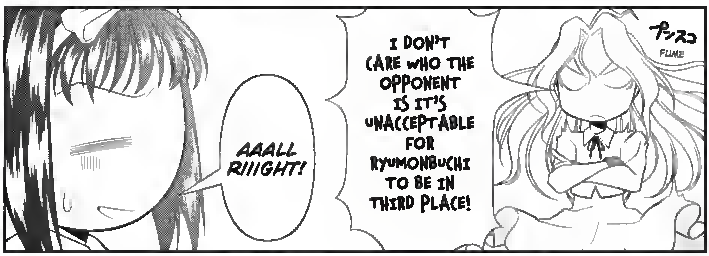

THAT OPPONENT WAS MORE OF A BEGINNER THAN YOU, KYOUTARO.
WHUMP
SERIOUSLY!?


IT'S MY TURN AFTER LUNCH...
...SO I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET US CAUGHT UP.

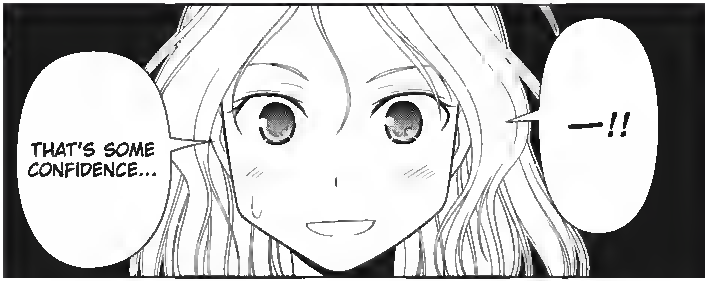

TOMO ...
...KI!
GLARE

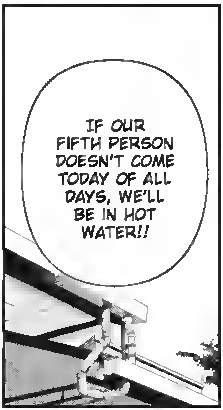

YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE USELESS !!
OKAY, OKAY...

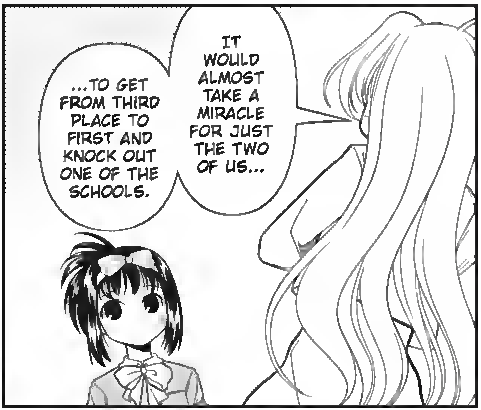

IN-COM-PATI-BLE !?
ふーん
NOD
THAT ONE GIRL WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH YOU, RIGHT, TOMOKI?
SHE WAS A BEGINNER TOO..


I DON'T CARE WHO THE OPPONENT IS IT'S UNACCEPTABLE FOR RYUMONBUCHI TO BE IN THIRD PLACE!
フンスコ
FUMU
AAALL RIIIGHT!

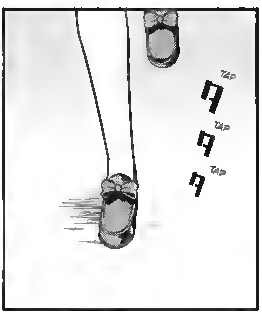
...I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, SO RELAX.
WELL ...
CHING


THAT'S SOME CONFIDENCE...
一!!


IF OUR FIFTH PERSON DOESN'T COME TODAY OF ALL DAYS, WE'LL BE IN HOT WATER!!


...TO GET FROM THIRD PLACE TO FIRST AND KNOCK OUT ONE OF THE SCHOOLS.
IT WOULD ALMOST TAKE A MIRACLE FOR JUST THE TWO OF US...

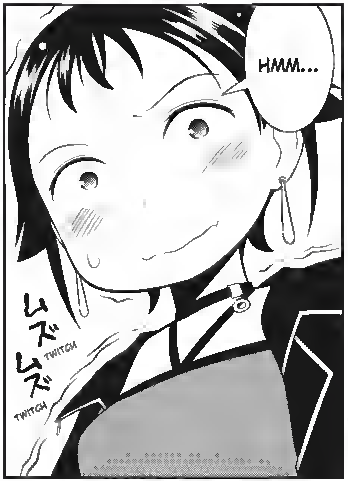
HEY!
AH!
KIDS AREN'T ALLOWED IN THERE!


TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

I SAW THIS NAME ON THE LIST—
SCHOOL I.D...?
ONLY PARTICI-PANTS CAN—
SHE'S LAST YEAR'S MVP...
I-I BEG YOUR PARDON!
ONE OF THE NATIONAL-CLASS MONSTERS —!?

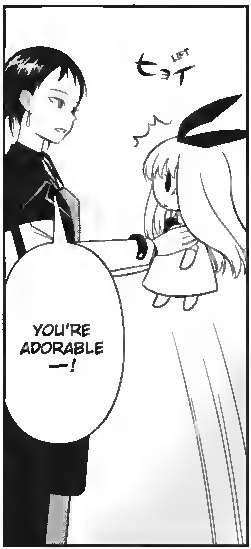
Room
!
THIS PLACE SMELLS...
ARRIVING "FASHIONABLY" LATE...

KOROMO AMAE —!!
...LIKE SOME-THING DELI-CIOUS!

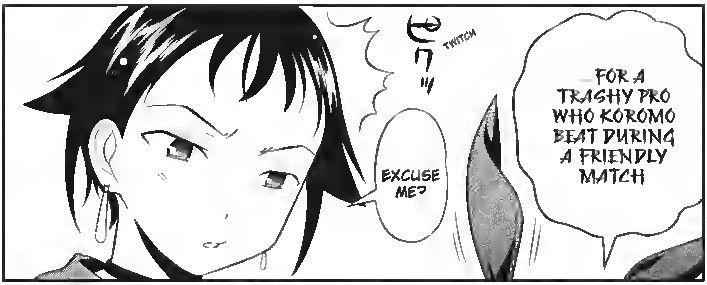

HMM...
ムズムズ
TWITCH
TWITCH

クンクン
SNIFF
SNIFF
I SMELL CURRY, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S LUNCH BREAK RIGHT NOW.
NOT THAT! I SMELL SACRIFICES FOR KOROMO!

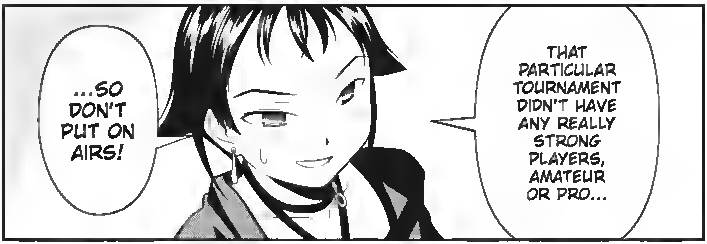
I WANT A KID LIKE YOUUU!
カァッ
BLUSH
ギュウ
HUG
I'M NOT A KID! I'M KOROMO!
PUT ME DOWN!

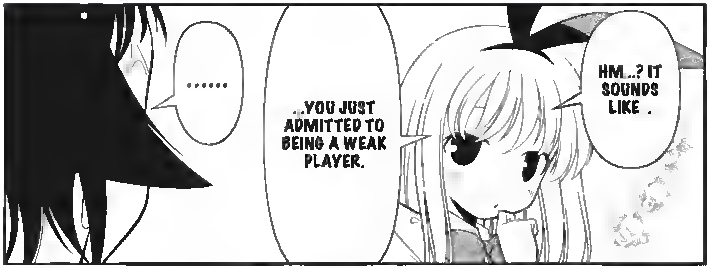

ヒョイ
LIFT
YOU'RE ADORABLE —!

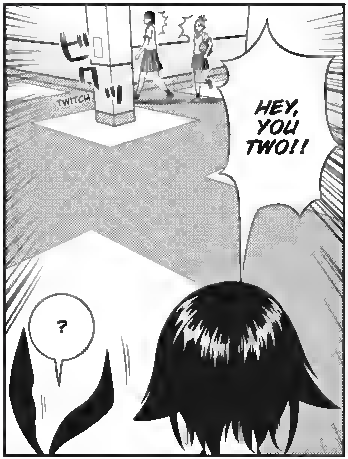
TWITCH
AHHH...
GOOD GIRL...
TOUSLE
なでなで
TOUSLE
NNNN!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
DON'T PET MEEE...
S-SOME NERVE...



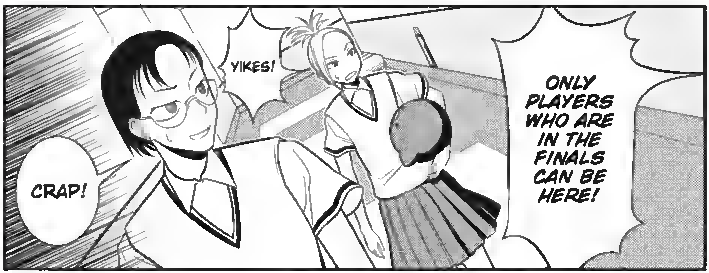
SFX: HUFF HUFF

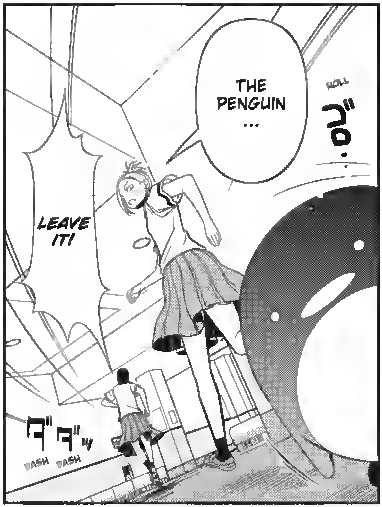


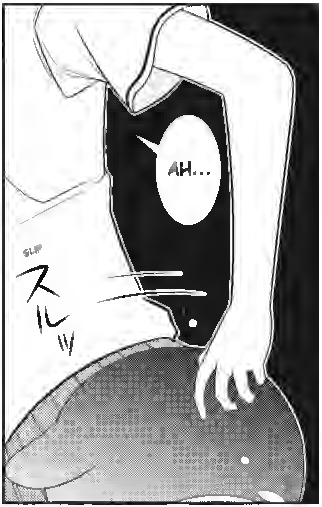

HM...? IT SOUNDS LIKE .
...YOU JUST ADMITTED TO BEING A WEAK PLAYER.
.....

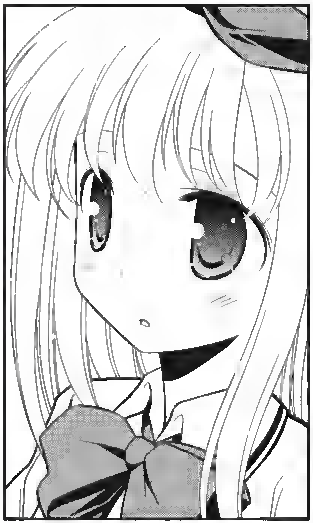

HEY, YOU TWO!!
TWITCH
?

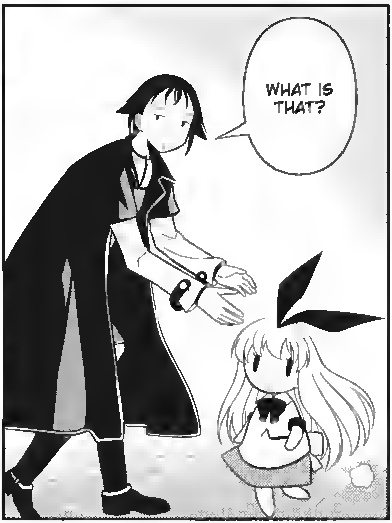
MM?
GRIND
GRIND
AAARGH!


ONLY PLAYERS WHO ARE IN THE FINALS CAN BE HERE!
YIKES!
CRAP!


THE PENGUIN ...
SCOOL
LEAVE IT!
DASH DASH


AH...
SLIP

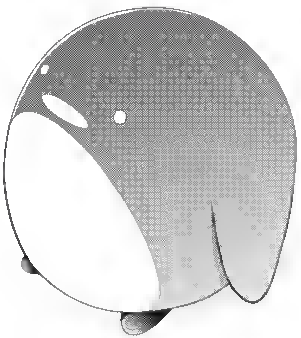



WHAT IS THAT?

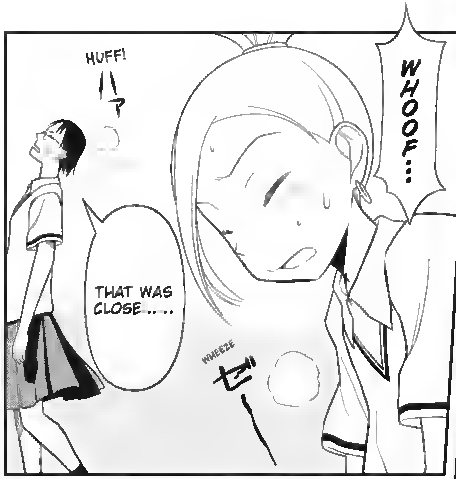
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE ONE NODOKA HARAMURA FROM KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL HAS.
A PENGUIN?
ARE YOU SURE? THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST ERRAND EVER, RIGHT?
I'M NOT A CHILD!
OKAY. KOROMO WILL BRING IT TO HER.
OKAY, GO AHEAD.
I GUESS IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA FOR HER TO MEET PLAYERS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS BEFOREHAND...

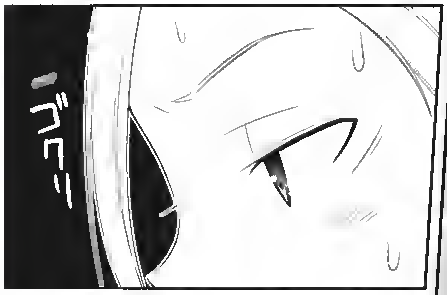
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
GREAT!

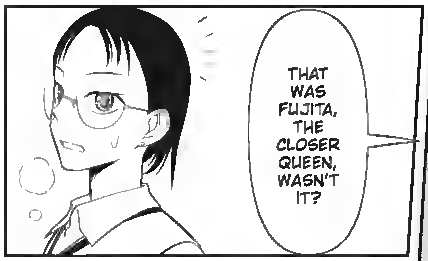
Saki

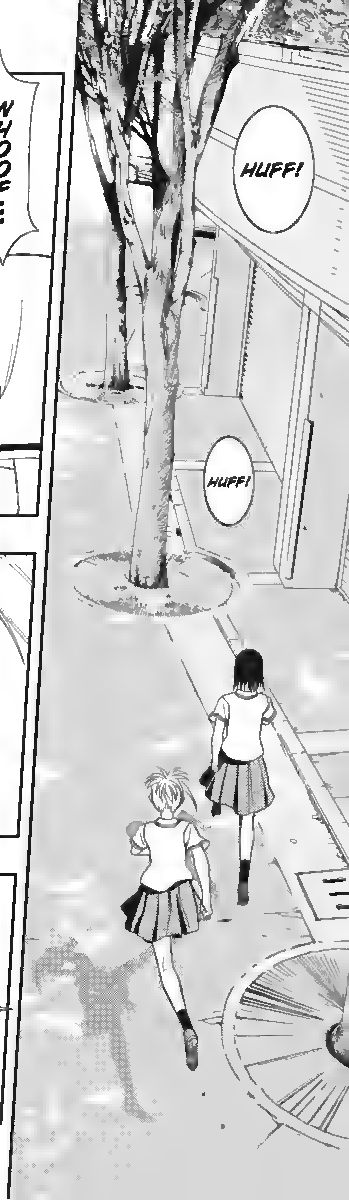


HAND 19: OMEN

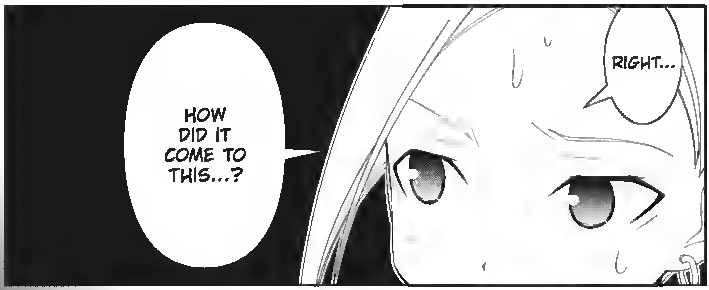

HUFF!
WHOOF...
THAT WAS CLOSE.....
WHEEZE




THAT WAS FUJITA, THE CLOSER QUEEN, WASN'T IT?


HUFF!
HUFF!

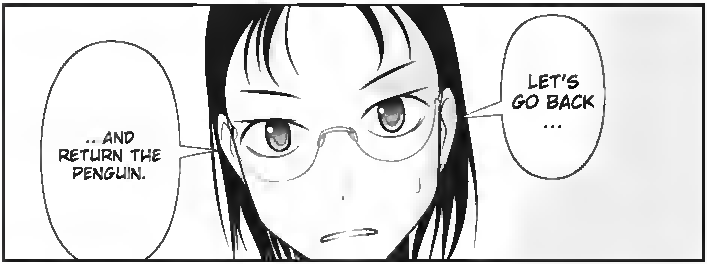
DO YOU THINK SHE SAW OUR FACES?
OUR SCHOOL UNIFORMS, AT LEAST!

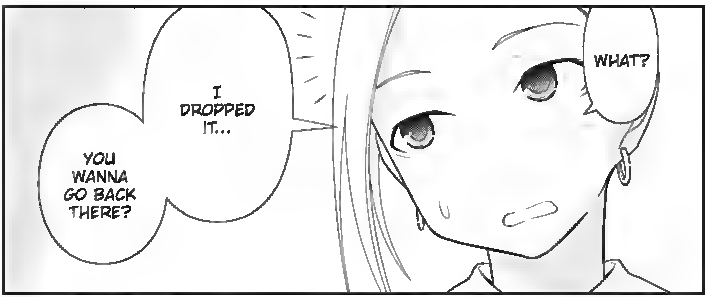

RIGHT...
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS...?

WE WERE TICKED OFF AFTER GETTING CREAMED BY KIYOSUMI YESTERDAY...
...SO WE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT PARTYING AT THE KARAOKE PLACE NEXT TO THE VENUE.

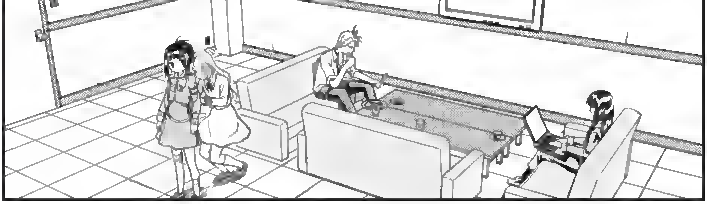
I'M SLEEPY..
THE TOURNAMENT HALL HAS A NAP ROOM!
...IS WHAT I SAID...
...AND WE WENT THERE ONLY TO FIND THAT DAMNED NODOKA HARAMURA ASLEEP!

HMM...
.....

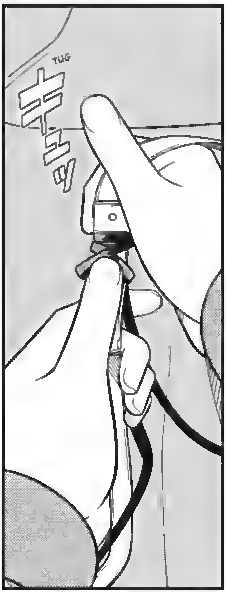

LET'S GO BACK ...
.. AND RETURN THE PENGUIN.

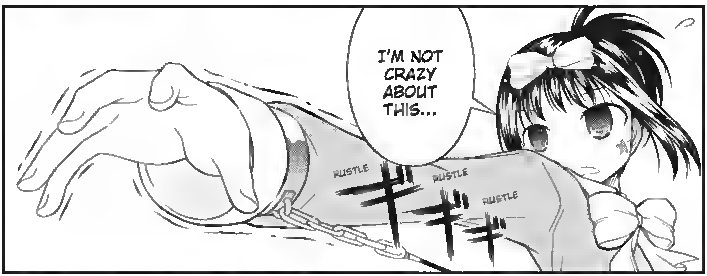

WHAT?
I DROPPED IT...
YOU WANNA GO BACK THERE?

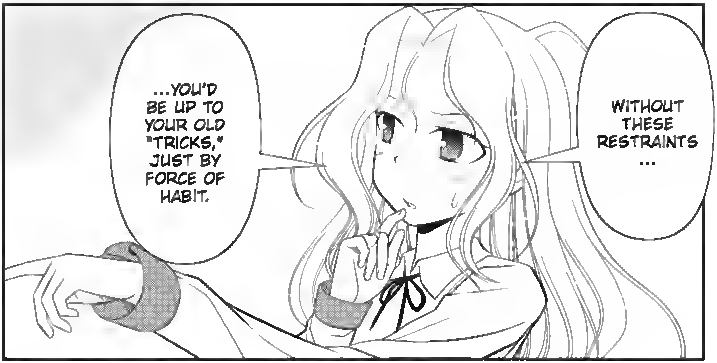
RIGHT NOW, I KIND OF FEEL LIKE WE'RE CRIMINALS ...
LET'S FIND THE THING AND GIVE IT BACK TO HER.
.....
YEAH, I GUESS ...
OKAY, LET'S GO!



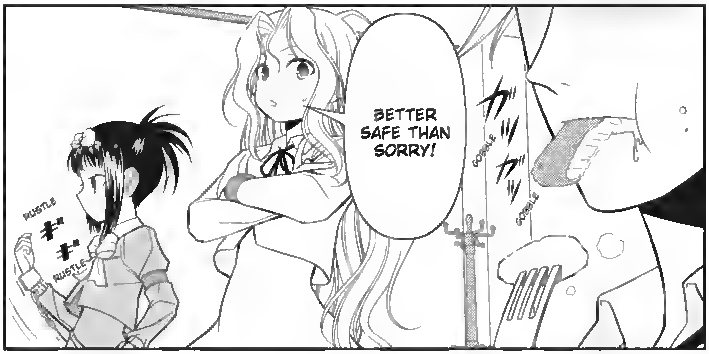
THAT'LL DO IT.
.....
CHIK
カチッ

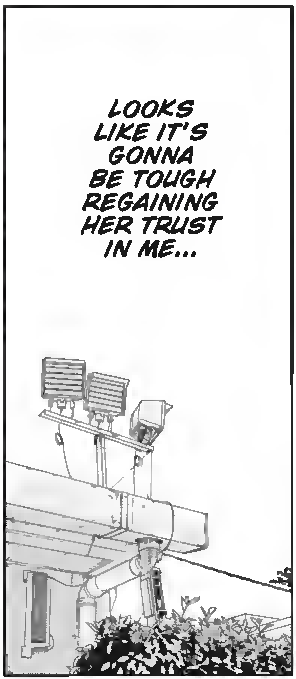

TUG
ギュッ


I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT THIS...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


WITHOUT THESE RESTRAINTS ...
...YOU'D BE UP TO YOUR OLD "TRICKS," JUST BY FORCE OF HABIT.

OF COURSE I WOULDN'T. I KNOW THERE ARE CAMERAS ALL OVER ...
...AND IT'S BROADCASTING LIVE, SO I'D BE CAUGHT AND DISQUALIFIED THE MOMENT I TRIED SOMETHING.
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, TOKA—!
CHOMP
CHOMP

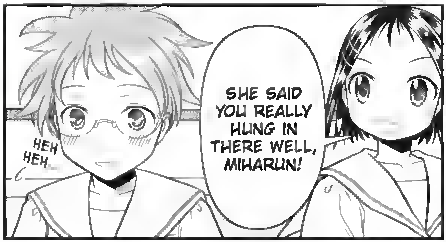

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE

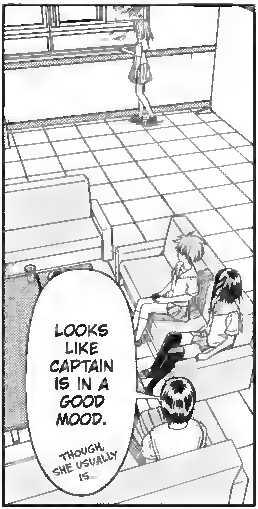

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH REGAINING HER TRUST IN ME...

JUST ONE BLACK MARK ON MY RECORD...
...AND I'VE BEEN CHAINED UP EVER AFTER.

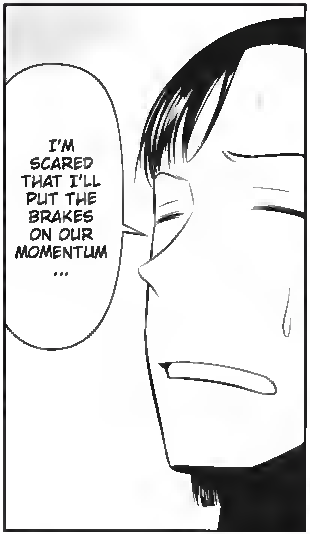
WOW, KAORI, THAT WAS GREAT!
YOU SHOWED 'EM WHO WAS BOSS!!
TH-THAT WAS GOOD?
IT WAS WHAT WE NEEDED AND THEN SOME.
CONSIDERING THE RESULTS, I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.

MAHJONG ISN'T ABOUT LUCK...
... BUT ...
...ONCE IN A WHILE, A BEGINNER CAN BEAT A PRO IN A FEW HANCHAN.
KAN-BARA!
YES?
DON'T LET OUR TARGET OUT OF YOUR SIGHTS.
I SHOULD SHOOT THEM DOWN, RIGHT?
KAZE-KOSHI !!

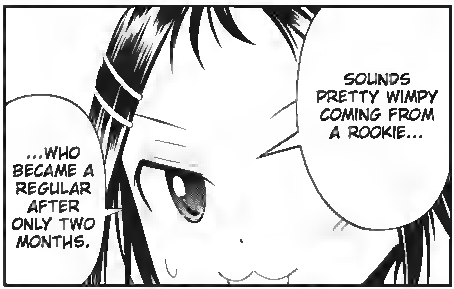

HEH HEH
SHE SAID YOU REALLY HUNG IN THERE WELL, MIHARUN!

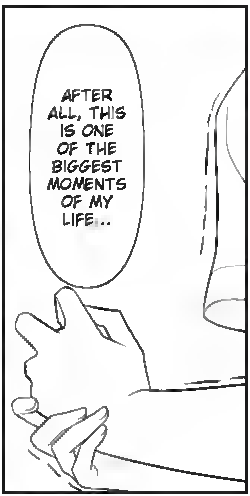

LOOKS LIKE CAPTAIN IS IN A GOOD MOOD.
THOUGH, SHE USUALLY IS...

I WANT HER TO PRAISE ME TOO!!
OOH!
SQUIRM
SQUIRM


I'M SCARED THAT I'LL PUT THE BRAKES ON OUR MOMENTUM ...

I'M UP NEXT...
ARE YOU NERVOUS? THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.


SOUNDS PRETTY WIMPY COMING FROM A ROOKIE...
...WHO BECAME A REGULAR AFTER ONLY TWO MONTHS.

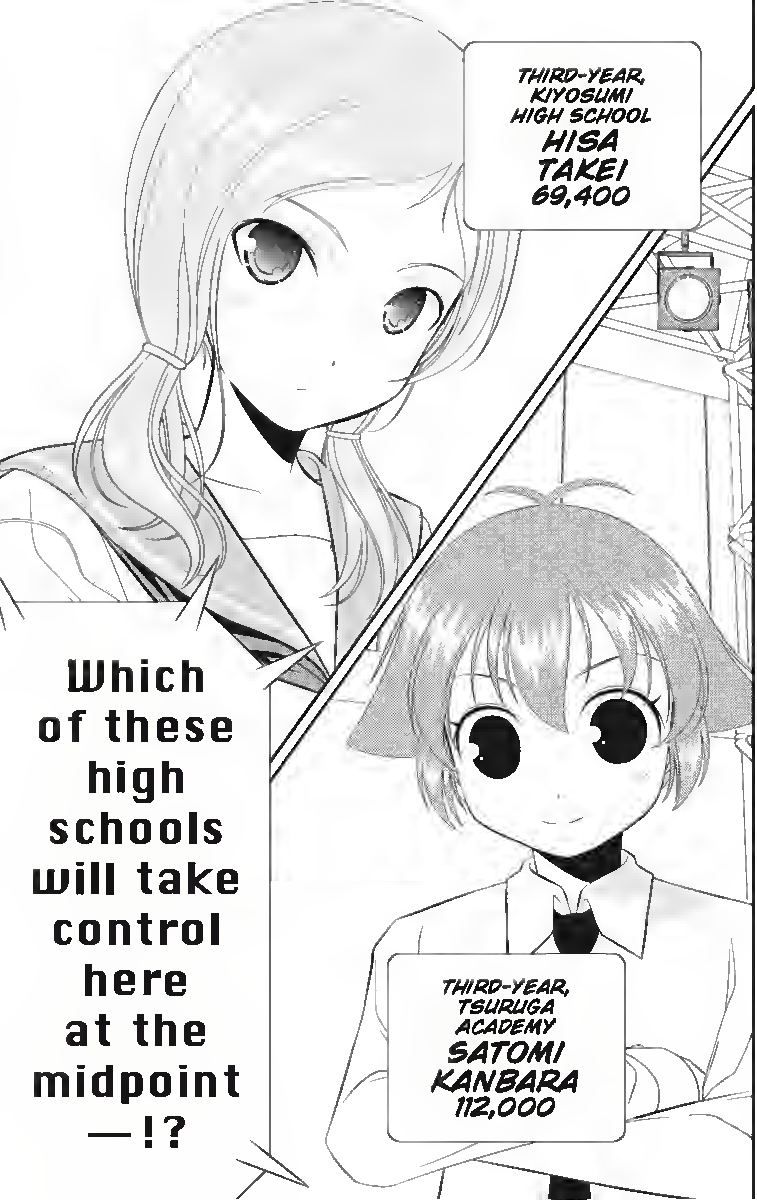

AFTER ALL, THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE...

THE SCORE SHEETS ...

DON'T YOU THINK THE SCORE SHEETS FOR KIYOSUMI'S ...
...MIDDLE AND LAST PLAYERS ARE WEIRD?
TH-THAT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE...
THEN I'LL PRAY ANOTHER "COINCIDENCE" DOESN'T COME UP.

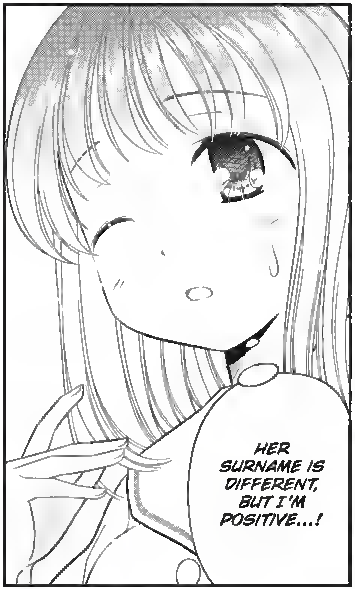
GRAB
SQUEEZE
CRACK
WELL, HOLD DOWN THE FORT.
GOOD LUCK!

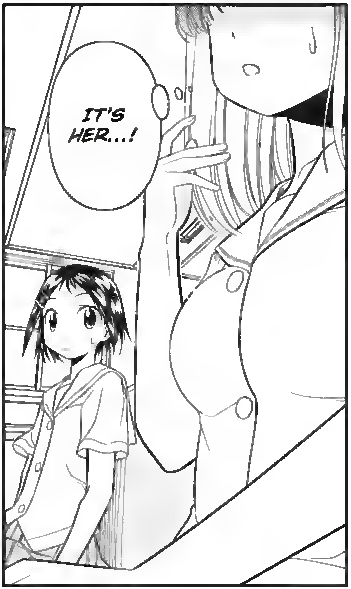
The middle round of the pre-fectural qualifier finals —!!
SECOND-YEAR, RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
HAJIME KUNIHIRO
77,800
FIRST-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
SEIKA BUNDO
140,800


THIRD-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
HISA TAKEI
69,400
Which of these high schools will take control here at the midpoint —!?
THIRD-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
SATOMI KANBARA
112,000

UENO-SAN...!?
?

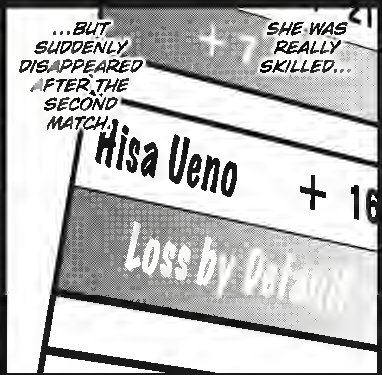
HISA TAKEI...


HER SURNAME IS DIFFERENT, BUT I'M POSITIVE...!


IT'S HER...!

SHE'S THE ONE WHO PUT ME THROUGH THE WRINGER...
...AT THE NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT THREE YEARS AGO!!

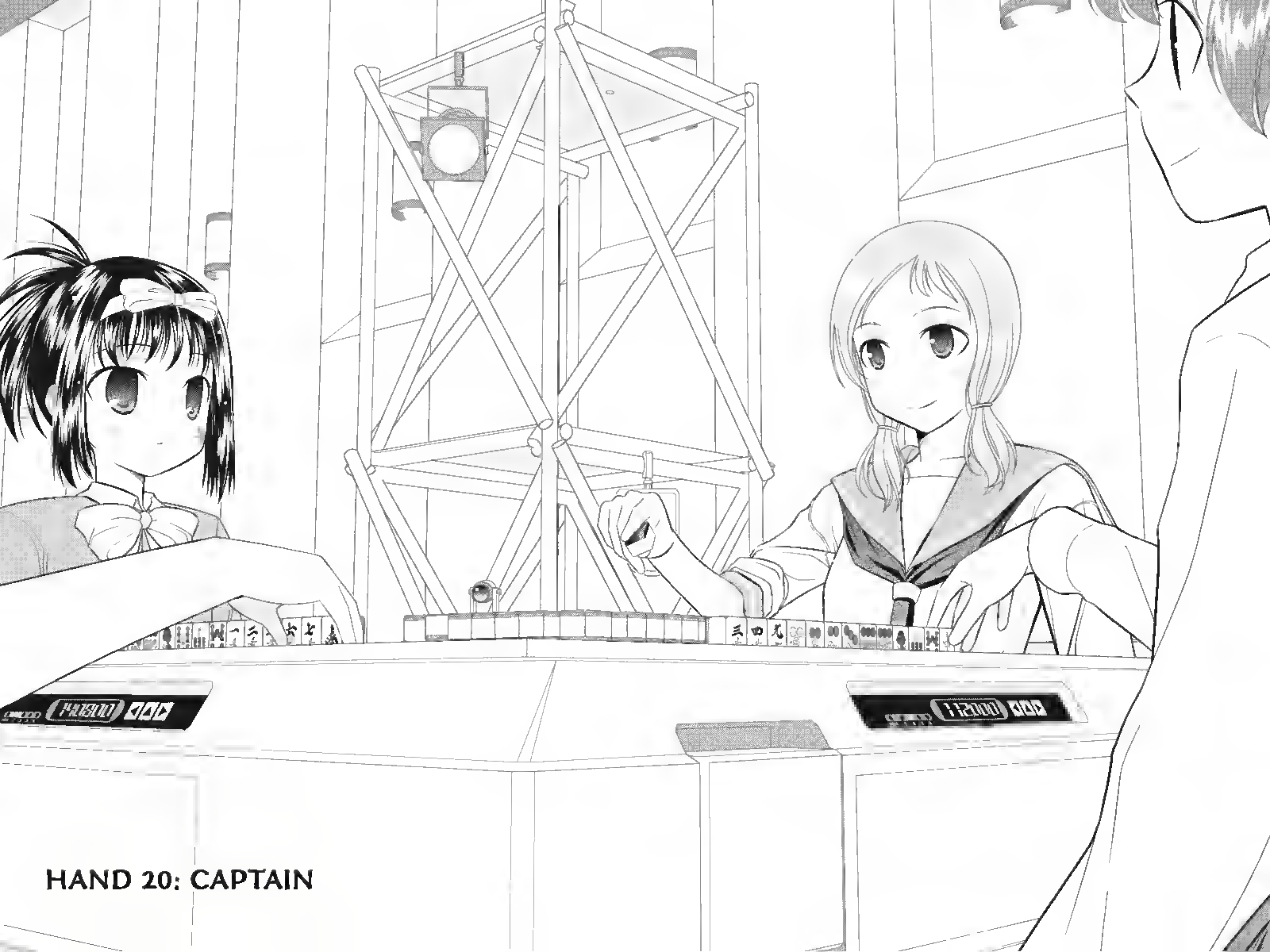
THE YEAR AFTER, SHE DIDN'T ENTER KAZEKOSHI EITHER...


...BUT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AFTER THE SECOND MATCH.
SHE WAS REALLY SKILLED...
+ 7
Hisa Ueno
+ 16
Loss by Default

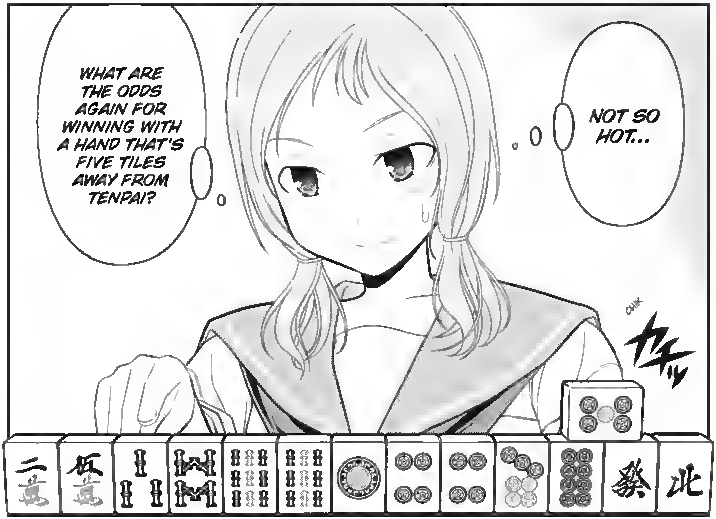
BUNDO-SAN...
UH-OH—

...DON'T GO HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH HER—!!

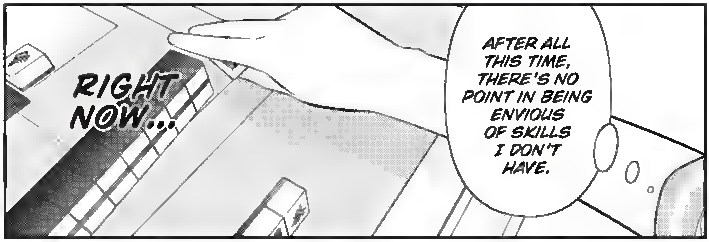
FIRST HALF (HANCHAN) OF THE THIRD ROUND, EAST HAND 1
SOUTH PLAYER, THIRD-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
HISA TAKEI
69,400



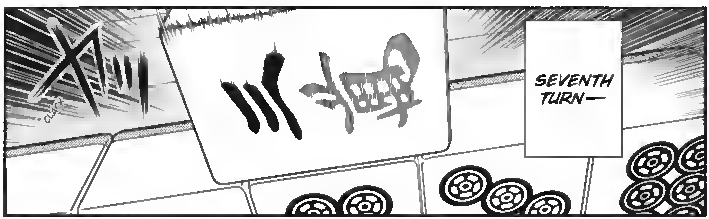
HAND 20: CAPTAIN

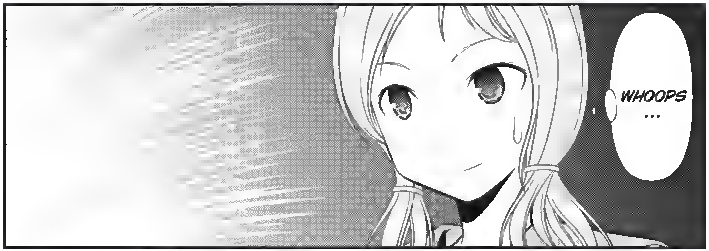

WHAT ARE THE ODDS AGAIN FOR WINNING WITH A HAND THAT'S FIVE TILES AWAY FROM TENPAI?
NOT SO HOT...
CLICK
カチッ

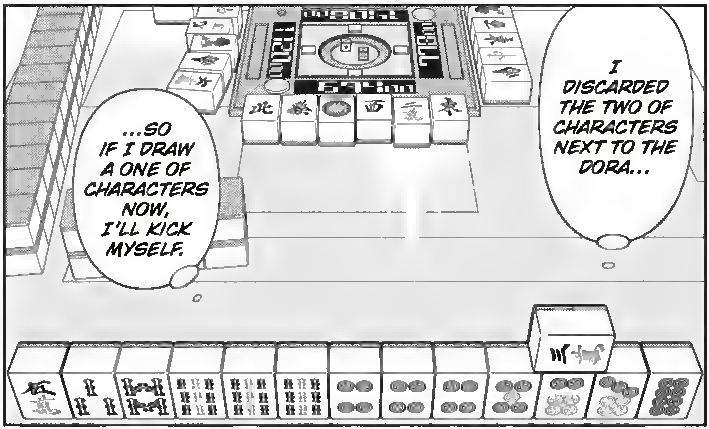
.....
MMM...
THIS ISN'T LIKE ME.
AM I NERVOUS?
I'M SURE NODOKA WOULD CONSIDER THE ODDS AND PLAY EFFICIENTLY...

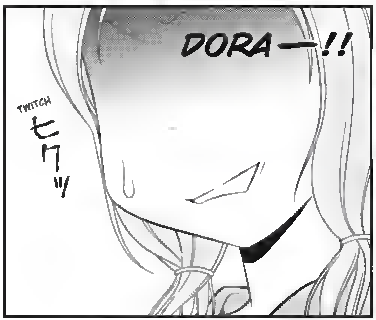

RIGHT NOW...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING ENVIOUS OF SKILLS I DON'T HAVE.

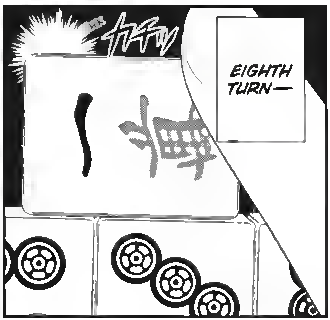
...MY OWN WAY!!
...I'LL PLAY THE GAME...

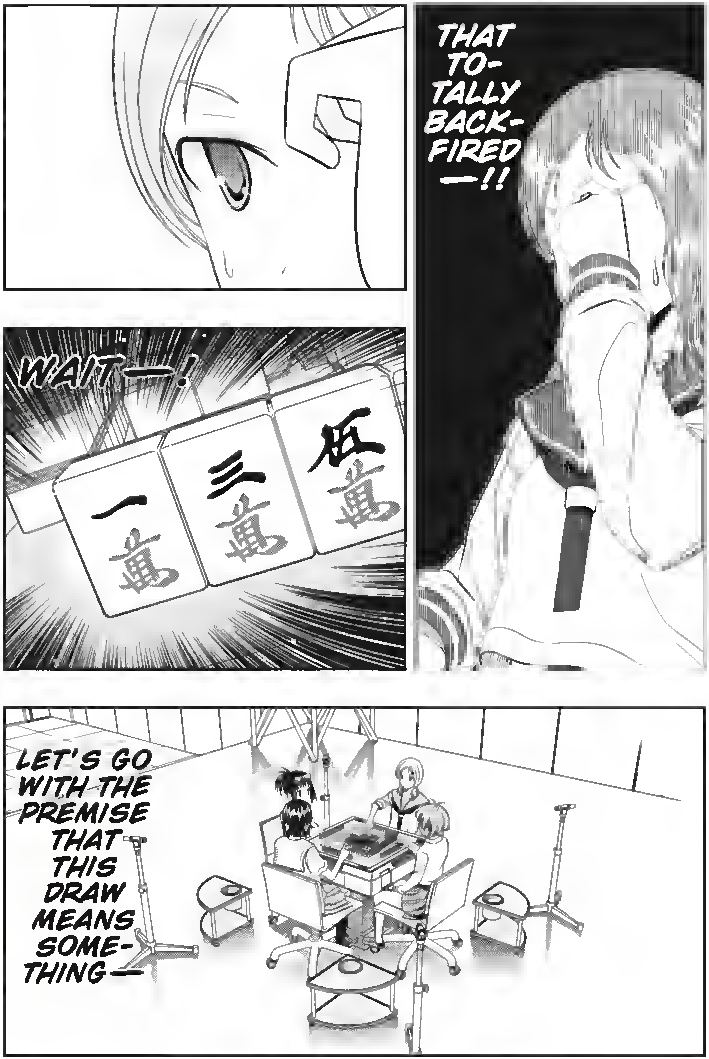

SEVENTH TURN—


WHOOPS...

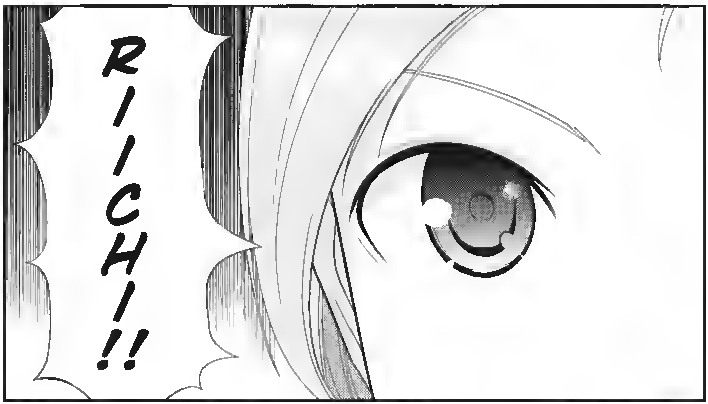

I DISCARDED THE TWO OF CHARACTERS NEXT TO THE DORA...
...SO IF I DRAW A ONE OF CHARACTERS NOW, I'LL KICK MYSELF.

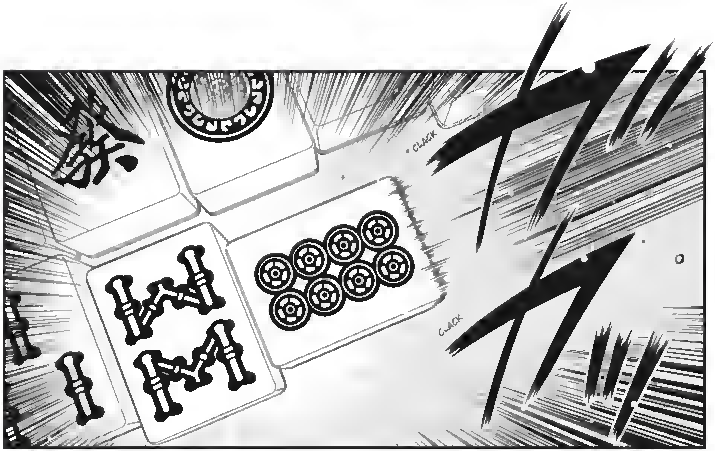

DORA—!!
TWITCH


EIGHTH TURN—

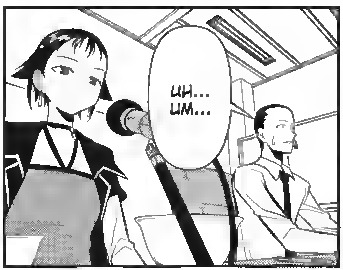

THAT TO-TALLY BACK-FIRED —!!
WAIT —!
一萬
三萬
伍萬
LET'S GO WITH THE PREMISE THAT THIS DRAW MEANS SOME-THING —

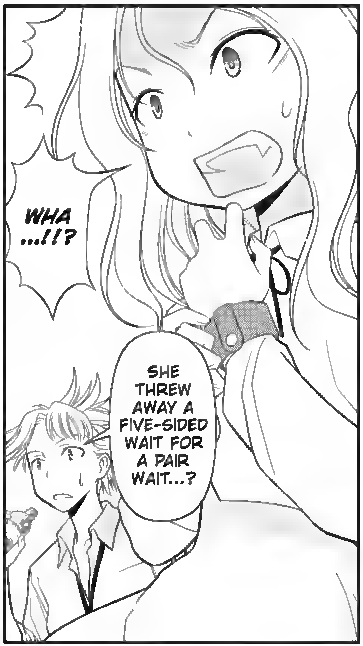
NINTH TURN—
THERE IT IS!!
CLACK

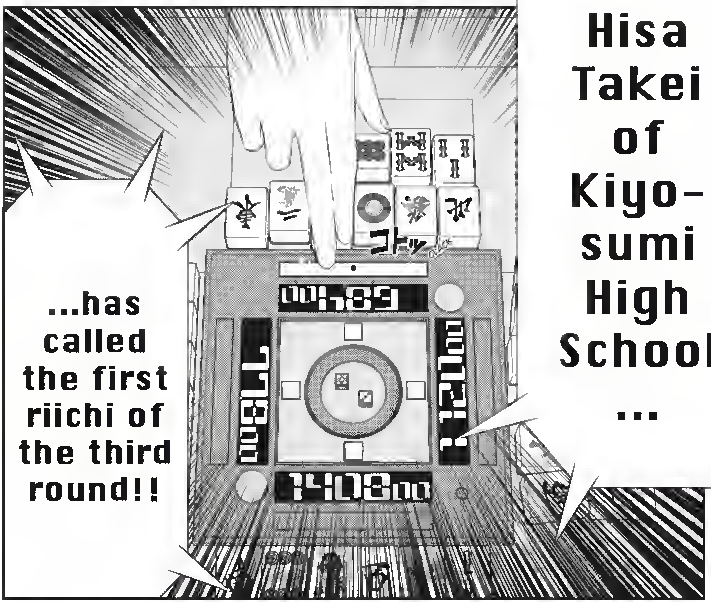

RIICHI!!


CLACK
CLACK

SHE GOES WITH BAD WAITS. THAT'S HOW SHE PLAYS— SHE HASN'T CHANGED...


UH... UM...


WHA ...!?
SHE THREW AWAY A FIVE-SIDED WAIT FOR A PAIR WAIT...?



*TERMINAL: THE ONES AND NINES OF EACH SUIT

BACK AROUND APRIL...
...NODOKA FOUND CAPTAIN'S RECORD ON THE CLUB COMPUTER.
BUT CAPTAIN OFTEN GOES WITH BAD WAITS AT TOURNA-MENTS.
!?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DELIBERATELY CHOOSE BAD WAITS..

I KNOW THAT IT'S A CRAZY WAY TO PLAY.
AND NORMALLY, I PLAY LOGICALLY, RIGHT?
NOT AS LOGICALLY AS YOU THOUGH...
THEY'RE GOING AT IT.
THEN WHAT IS IT...? IF YOU PLAY LIKE THAT AT THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER, YOU'LL HURT OUR CHANCES...
THEN...
FOR SOME REASON, AT TOURNAMENTS, I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO WIN MUCH WITH GOOD WAITS...
I FEEL LIKE I WIN MORE WHEN I HAVE BAD WAITS.

IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE!
LEAN
IT WAS PROBABLY A ONETIME RANDOM DEVIATION THAT YOU'VE CONVINCED YOURSELF WAS PART OF THE FLOW OR SOME KIND OF GOOD LUCK CHARM, AND NOW YOU'VE GOT YOUR-SELF IN A BIND!!
THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING IN THIS WORLD.

THERE ARE PERFECT THEORETICIANS, LIKE YOU, WHO DON'T RELY ON LUCK BUT TRY TO INCREASE THEIR WINNING PERCENTAGE OVER THE SPAN OF SEVERAL THOUSAND HANDS...
...BUT THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN A "FLOW" AND A MEANING BEHIND THE TILES THEY DRAW.

THERE ARE EVEN "MONSTERS" WITH SUPERNATURAL POWERS WHO SCORE WIN AFTER BIZARRE WIN.
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING SILLY.
THE TRUTH IS, I'D LIKE TO PLAY LOGICALLY BUT I'M NOT AS SMART AS YOU. IN IMPORTANT MATCHES I FIND MYSELF GOING FOR BAD WAITS.
IT'S ESPECIALLY DURING THOSE IMPORTANT MATCHES THAT YOU SHOULD PLAY LOGICALLY...
...IN ORDER TO RAISE THE PERCENTAGE OF WINNING
THEN...

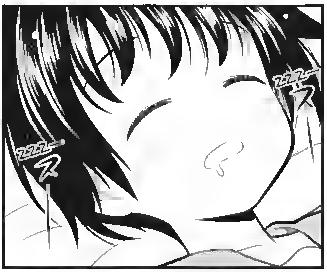
...
ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE YOUR ONE AND ONLY LIFE THROUGH LOGIC AND CALCU-LATIONS ALONE?
TH-THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO DO, LIKE BECOME AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AND GET MARRIED, BUT... I'M GETTING OFF TRACK!
MAHJONG IS NOT A ONETIME DEAL!
TRUE... BUT FOR ME. .

...I ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SUMMER.
BESIDES...
...IF I'D LOST WHEN I HAD BAD WAITS, I WOULD'VE BECOME A THEORETICIAN LIKE YOU...

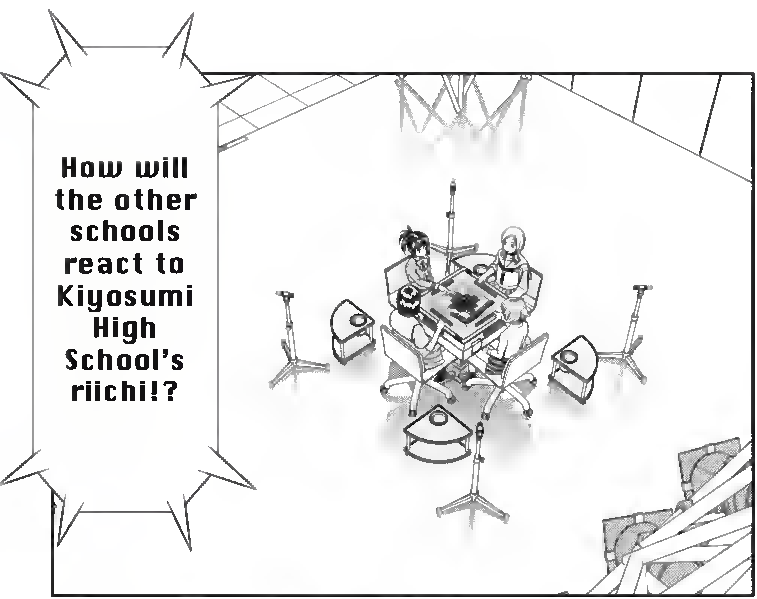
...BUT, SEE...
...I ALWAYS WIN.
SHIVER
ブルッ
CAPTAIN ...
OH, RIGHT...
I PASSED OUT IN THE NAP ROOM.....

HAS THE THIRD ROUND BEGUN...?

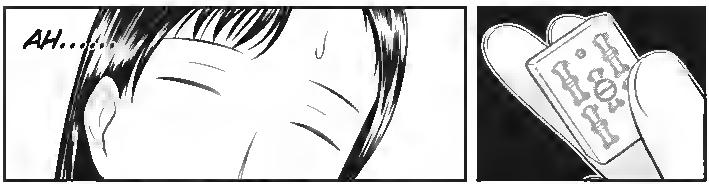
CAPTAIN IS PLAYING IN THE THIRD ROUND, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT ...?
.....


スースー
スースー

FWAP ポフ
I'LL JUST SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER .....

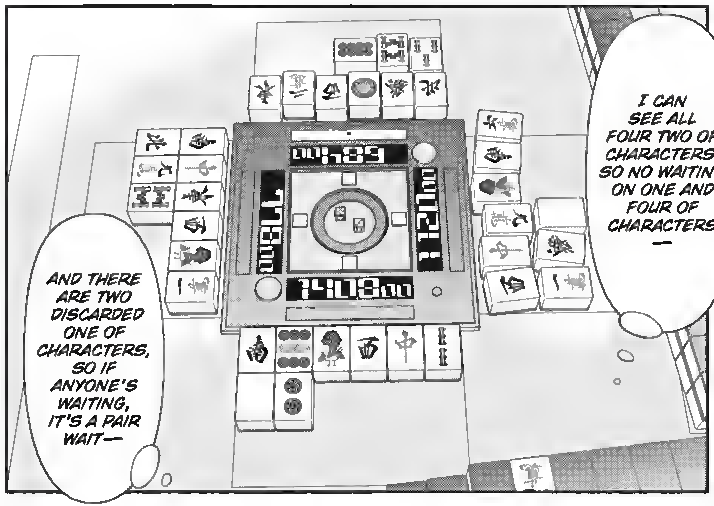

How will the other schools react to Kiyosumi High School's riichi!?

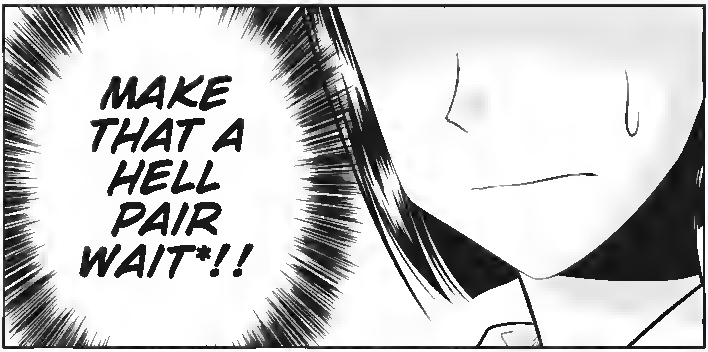
THIS IS ROUGH...
I'M STUCK WAITING FOR TWO TILES...


AH.....

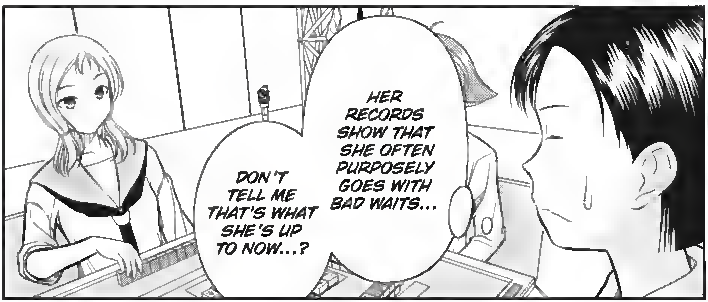
HAND 21: TORN CLOTH

IF I DISCARD THE ONE OF CHARACTERS DORA AND THEN CALL RIICHI, I'D AT LEAST GET 5,200.
TENPAI —!

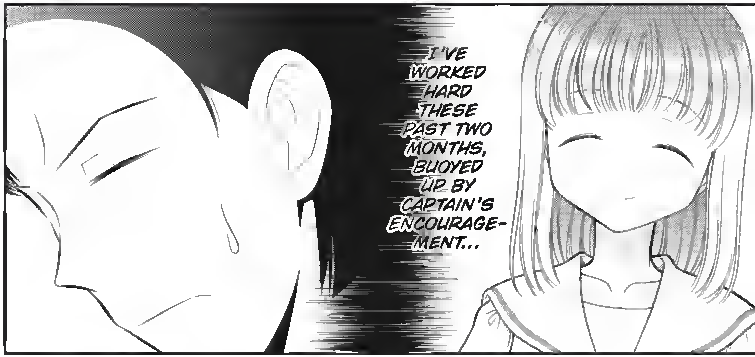

I CAN SEE ALL FOUR TWO OF CHARACTERS, SO NO WAITING ON ONE AND FOUR OF CHARACTERS —
AND THERE ARE TWO DISCARDED ONE OF CHARACTERS, SO IF ANYONE'S WAITING, IT'S A PAIR WAIT—

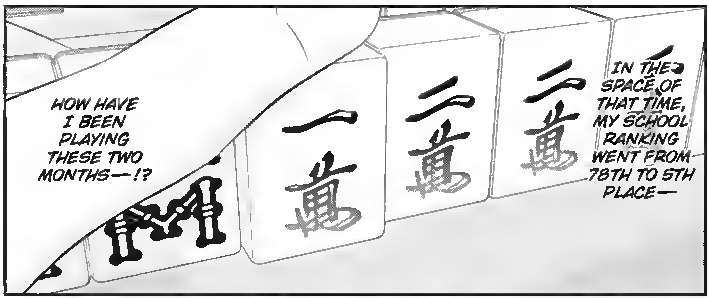


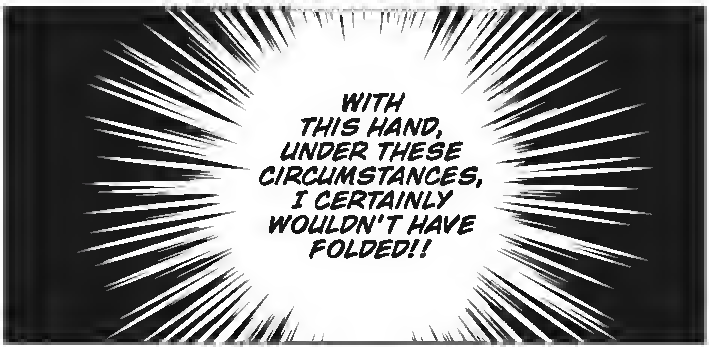
*HELL PAIR WAIT: WHEN WAITING FOR A TILE TO FINISH ONE'S PAIR AND HAND, BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE TILE LEFT THAT CAN WIN IT

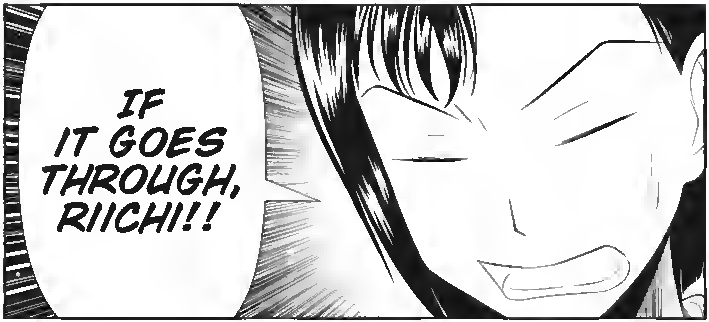


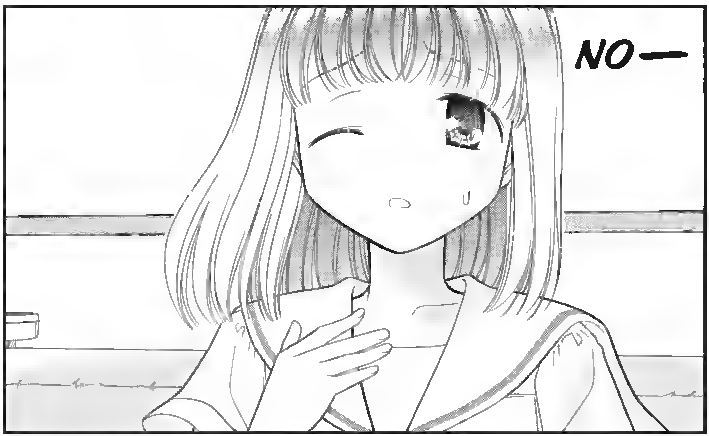
IT'S ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO DISCARD A DORA, BUT GOING BY THE TILES I CAN SEE, THE ONE OF CHARACTERS IS ACTUALLY SAFE—!!
THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER BAD WAITS...
NO—

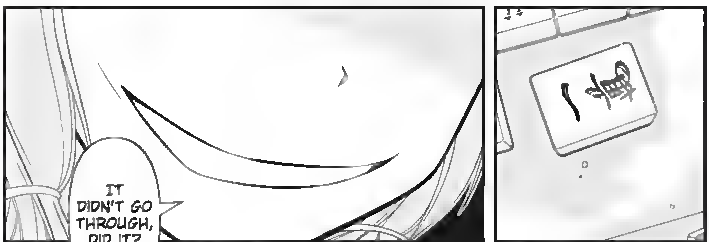

I'VE WORKED HARD THESE PAST TWO MONTHS, BUOYED UP BY CAPTAIN'S ENCOURAGE-MENT...

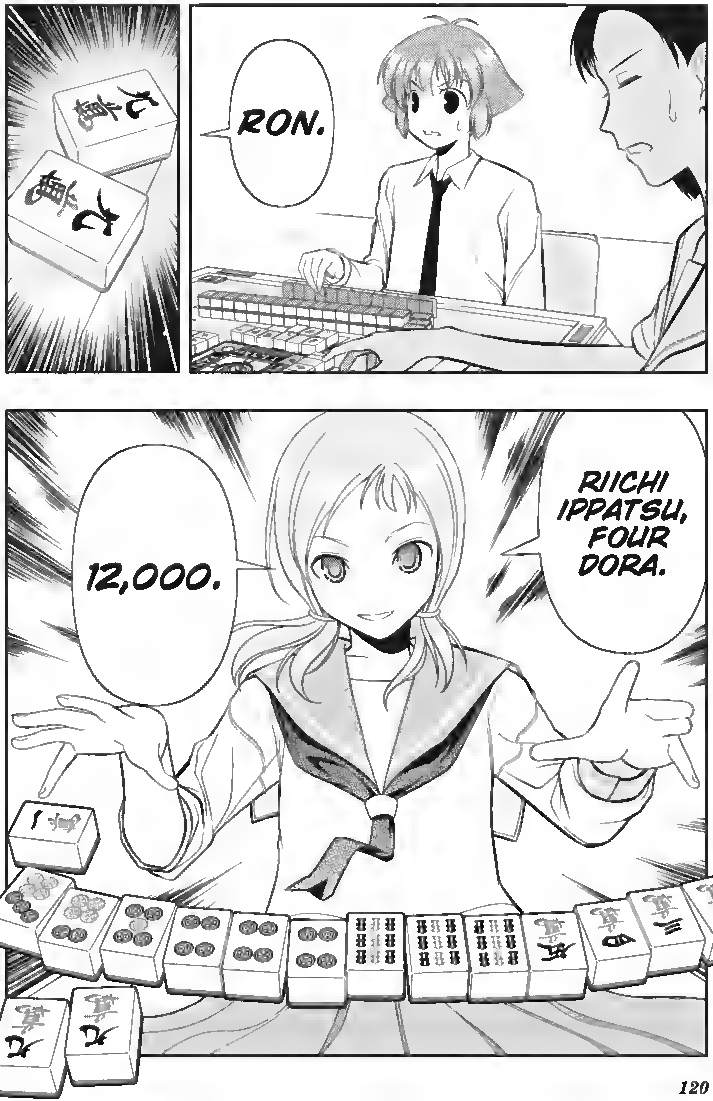

HOW HAVE I BEEN PLAYING THESE TWO MONTHS—!?
IN THE SPACE OF THAT TIME, MY SCHOOL RANKING WENT FROM 78TH TO 5TH PLACE—


WITH THIS HAND, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE FOLDED!!


IF IT GOES THROUGH, RIICHI!!


NO—

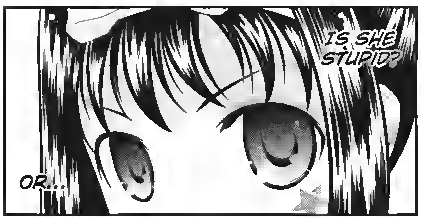

IT DIDN'T GO THROUGH, DID IT?


RON.
RIICHI IPPATSU, FOUR DORA.
12,000.

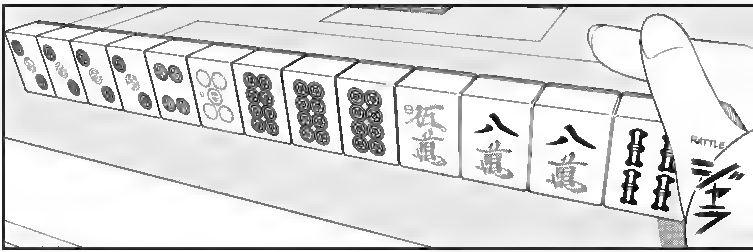
YOU DISCARDED THE EIGHT OF CIRCLES AND CALLED R!!CH! WITH THAT HAND —!?
HA-HA!

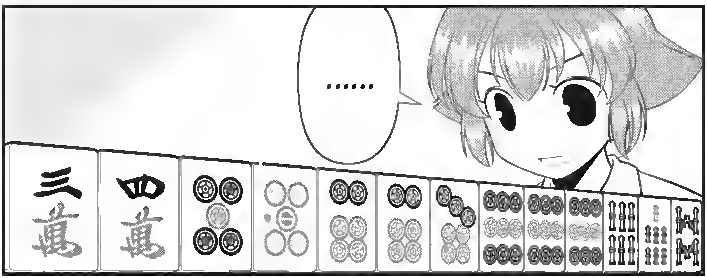
CAPTAIN—!!!

WHAT'S WITH HER .....?
.....

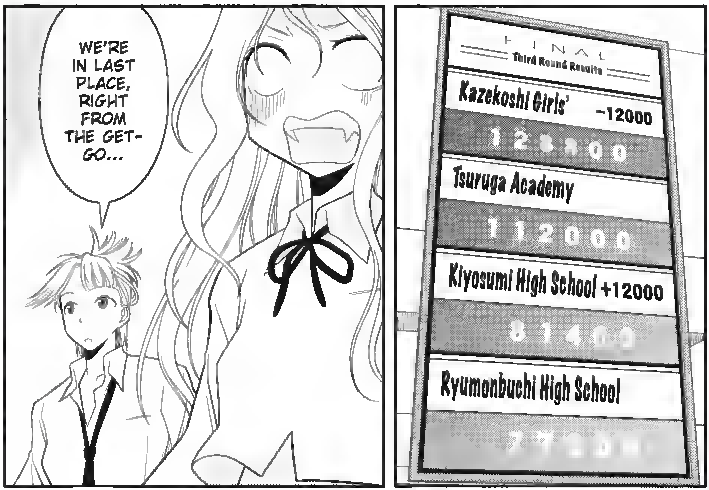

IS SHE STUPID?
OR...

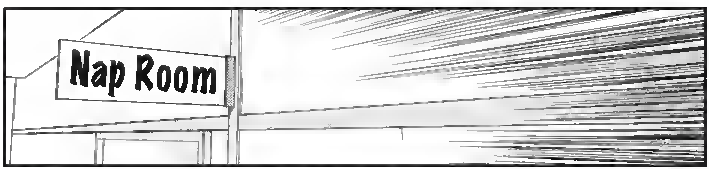
...A CREATURE SIMILAR TO KOROMO?
THANKS!

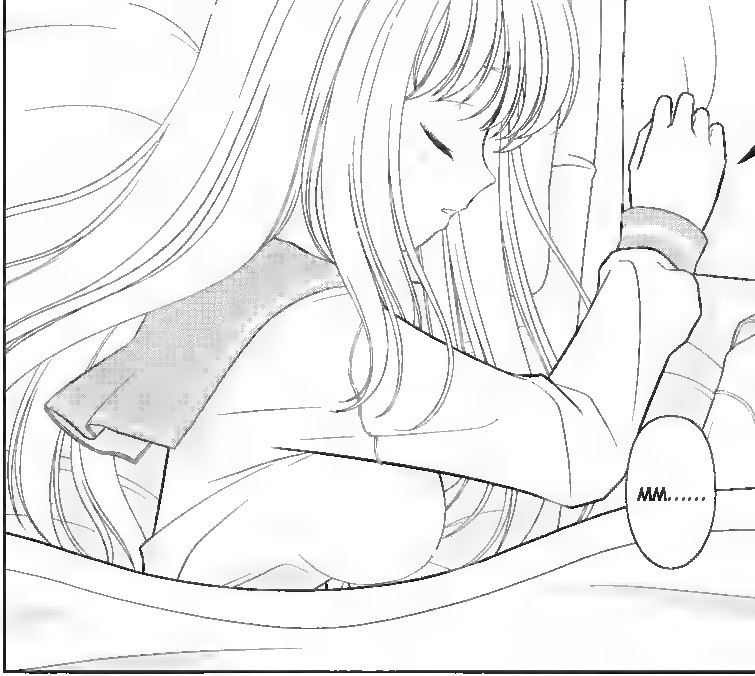

RATTLE
ジャラ


.....

ONLY IF TSURUGA HAD DISCARDED A NINE OF CIRCLES... BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL.
FROM WHAT WE CAN SEE OF RYUMONBUCHI AND TSURUGA'S HANDS, KIYOSUMI PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE WON IF SHE HAD GONE WITH THE FIVE-SIDED WAIT...

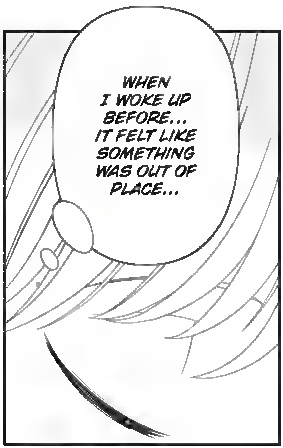

WE'RE IN LAST PLACE, RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO...
FINAL
Third Round Results
Kazekoshi Girls' -12000
Tsuruga Academy
Kiyosumi High School +12000
Ryumonbuchi High School


Nap Room


MM.....

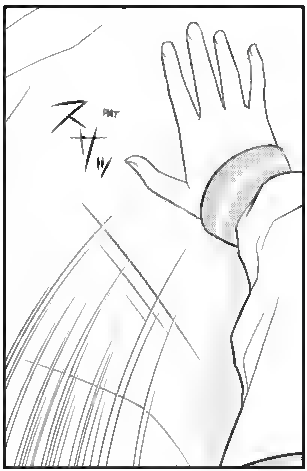
GASP

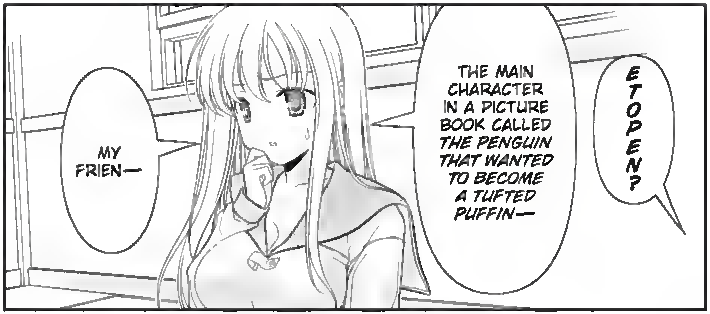
.....

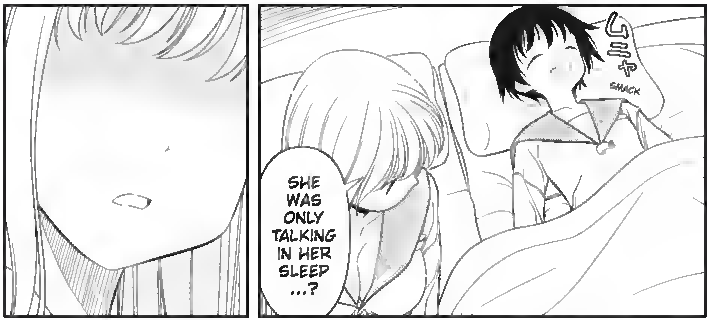

WHEN I WOKE UP BEFORE... IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS OUT OF PLACE...

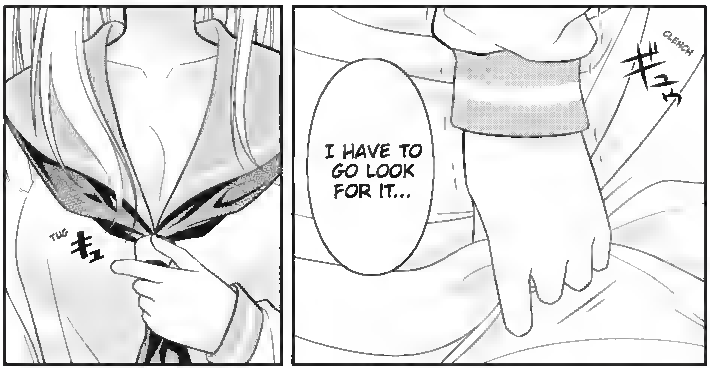
FINISH

ETOPEN'S GONE...


PAT


ETOPEN?
THE MAIN CHARACTER IN A PICTURE BOOK CALLED THE PENGUIN THAT WANTED TO BECOME A TUFTED PUFFIN—
MY FRIEN—

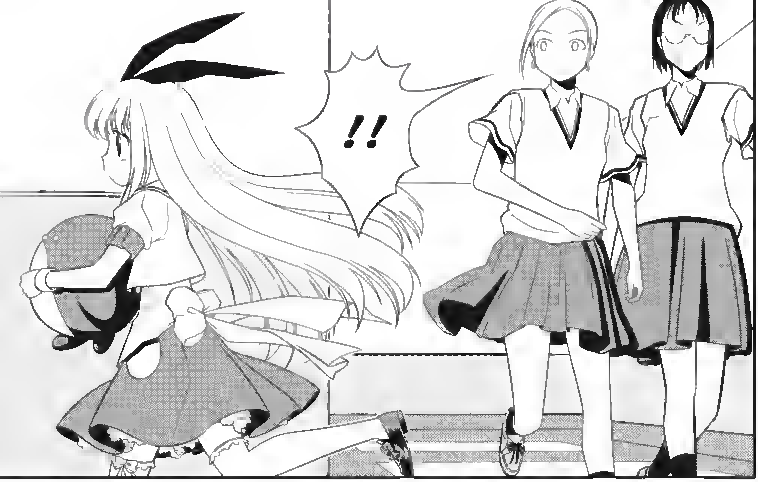

SHE WAS ONLY TALKING IN HER SLEEP ...?
SNACK


TUG
I HAVE TO GO LOOK FOR IT...
CLENCH

A PENGUIN?
HAVEN'T SEEN ONE...
YOU MEAN A STUFFED ANIMAL?
HOW BIG IS IT?
ABOUT THIS BIG.

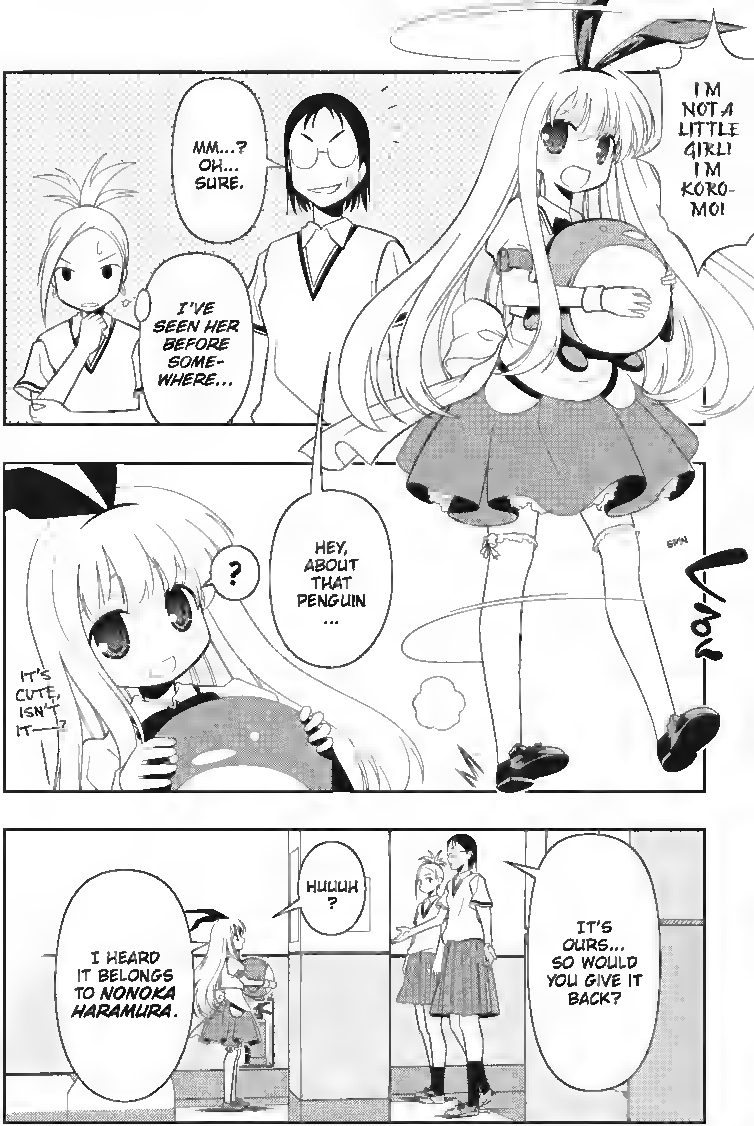
I'LL HAVE YOU BACK WITH YOUR MASTER IN A JIFFYYY!
I'M SURE KOROMO WILL BE PRAISED TO THE HEAVENS! IT'LL BE KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!!
HOP
HOP

MAYBE I'LL EVEN MAKE FRIENDS...
...AND WE CAN GO OUT AND HAVE FUN FROM TOMORROW ON!

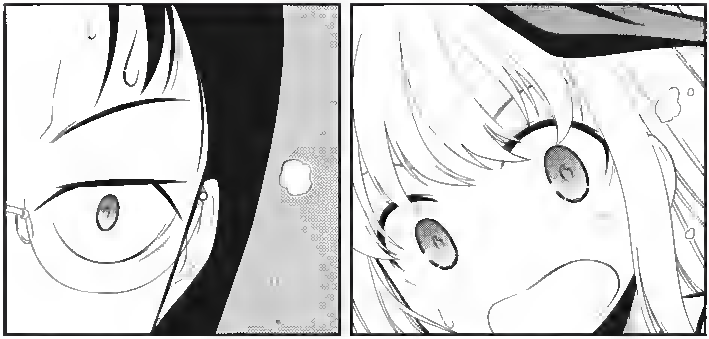

!!

HEY, LITTLE GIRL!
MM?

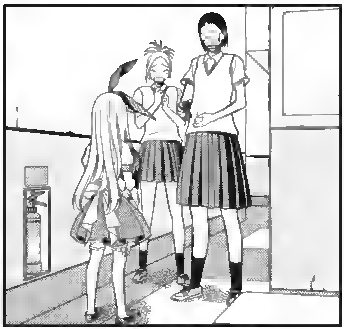
THERE IT IS ...!!

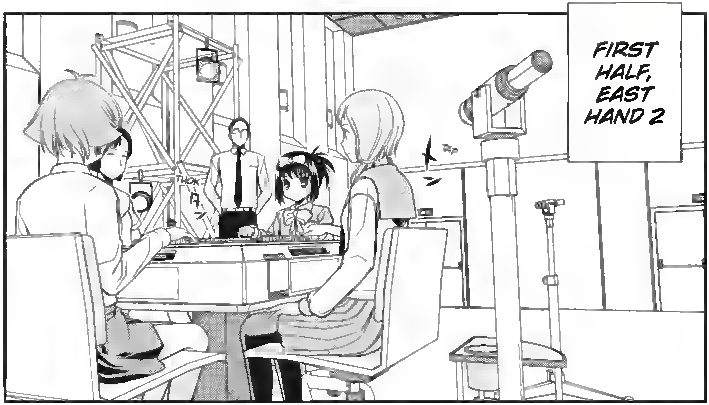

I'M NOT A LITTLE GIRL! I'M KOROMO!
MM...? OH... SURE.
I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE SOMEWHERE...
HEY, ABOUT THAT PENGUIN ...
?
IT'S CUTE, ISN'T IT——?
HUUUH ?
IT'S OURS... SO WOULD YOU GIVE IT BACK?
I HEARD IT BELONGS TO NONOKA HARAMURA.

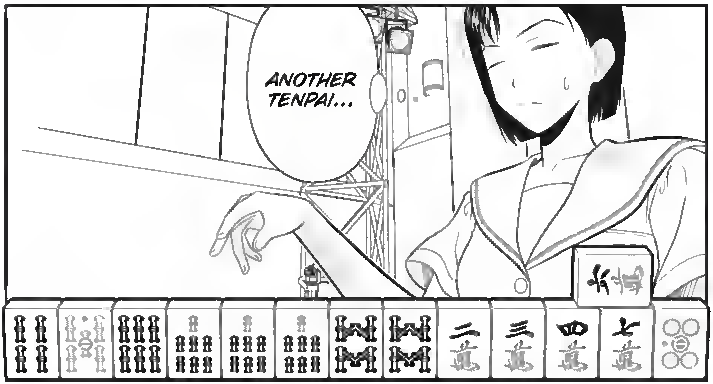
.....
?
DIDN'T YOU SEE ME...
...DROP IT BEFORE?
EEK—!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING —!?
WHAT-EVER, JUST GIVE IT HERE!
I TOLD YOU TO GIVE IT TO ME!!
KOROMO IS GOING TO RETURN IT TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!!
LET GO YOU AIRHEAD —!!
TUG
TUG
TUG

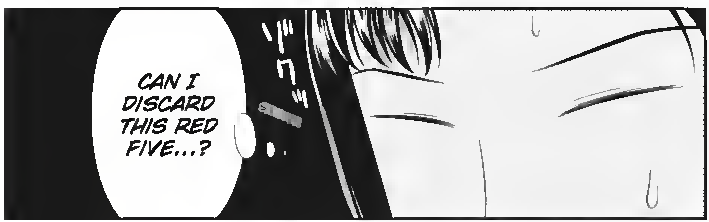


HAND 22: TRICK

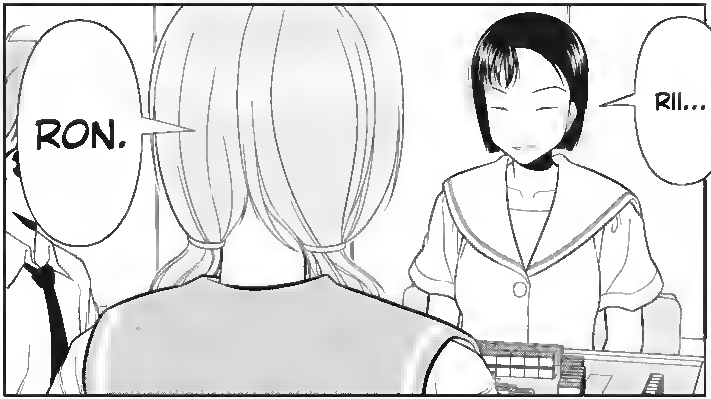


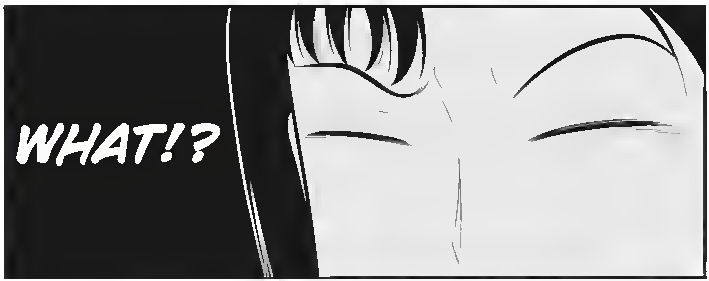

FIRST HALF, EAST HAND 2

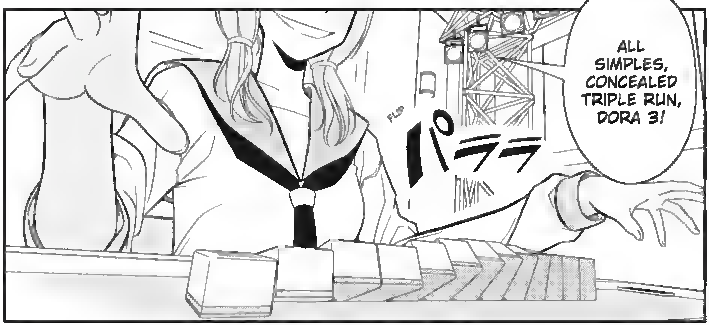

ANOTHER TENPAI...


CAN I DISCARD THIS RED FIVE...?

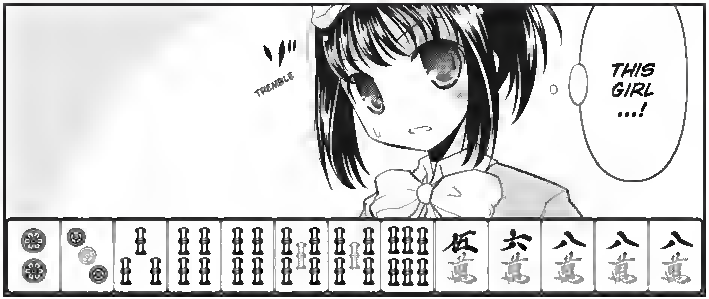
GOING BY THE DISCARDS, I THINK IT HAS A GOOD SHOT OF GOING THROUGH...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED OUR LEAD BEFORE AND FOLDED...
...BUT IN ORDER TO GET IT BACK...
...I'M GOING TO ATTACK NOW!!

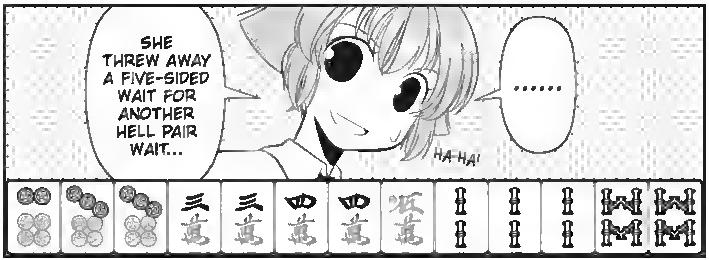

RON.
RII...


WHAT!?


ALL SIMPLES, CONCEALED TRIPLE RUN, DORA 3!
FLIP
パラ

+18000
18,000.
-18000
AGAIN —!!?

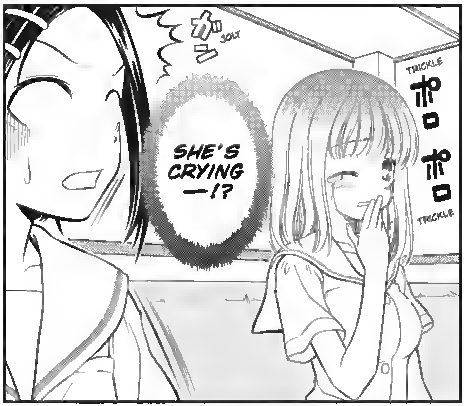

TREMBLE
THIS GIRL ...!

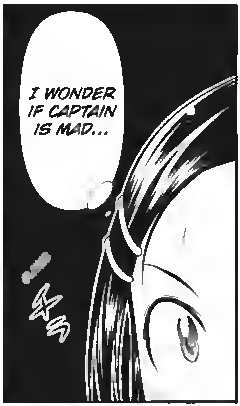

SHE THREW AWAY A FIVE-SIDED WAIT FOR ANOTHER HELL PAIR WAIT...
.....
HA HA!

...SHE SHOT KAZE-KOSHI DOWN FOR ME!!
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' 110,800
TSURUGA ACADEMY 112,000

... BUT ...

UGH—
I CAN'T BELIEVE A RANDOM SCHOOL IS BEATING US...
Kazekoshi Girls' Waiting Room

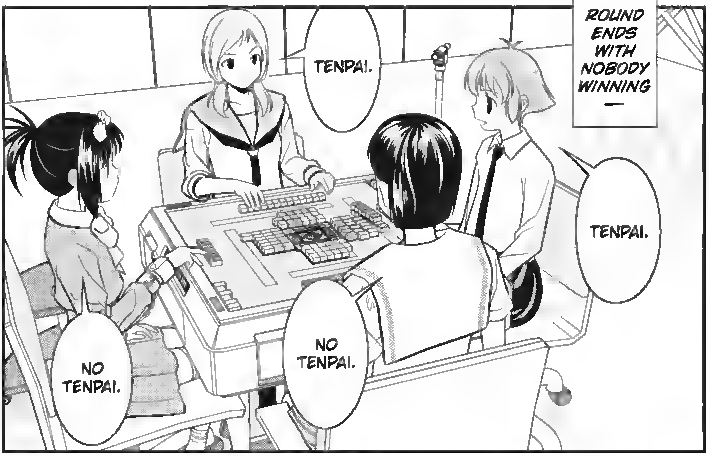

ガン
SOLT
SHE'S CRYING —!?
TRICKLE
ポロ
ポロ
TRICKLE

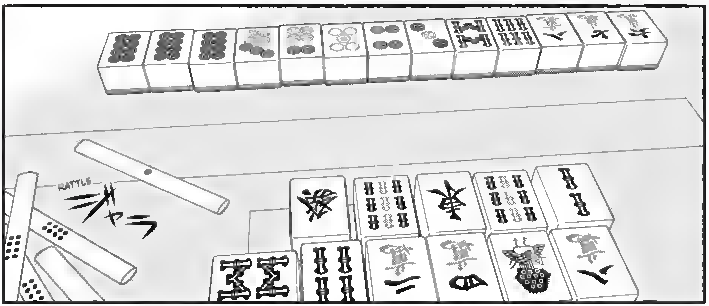

I WONDER IF CAPTAIN IS MAD...
ドキ

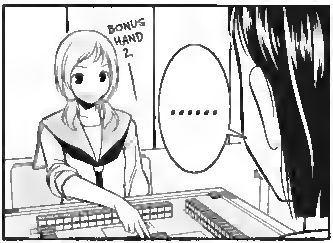
IF I'D NOTICED IT WAS UENO-SAN WHEN I LOOKED AT THE RECORDS...
...I MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE HER A LITTLE ADVICE.
ポロ
ポロ

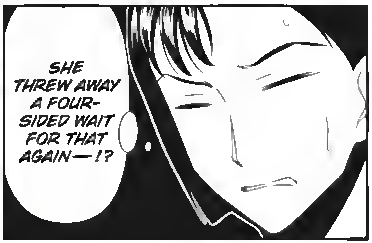
I'M SORRY, BUNDO-SAN.
I'M SORRY...
THUD
ドキ
DON'T CRY..
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, CAPTAIN ...
I WANT TO PUT MY ARMS AROUND HER SHOULDERS.
SHE HAD A DIFFERENT NAME THREE YEARS AGO.

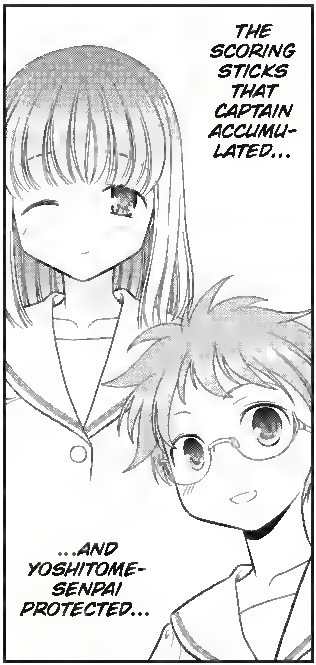
PLEASE SMILE...
WE'LL GET THROUGH IT SOMEHOW!
...BECAUSE I'M GOING TO WIN!!
EAST HAND 2, BONUS HAND 1


ROUND ENDS WITH NOBODY WINNING —
TENPAI.
TENPAI.
NO TENPAI.
NO TENPAI.

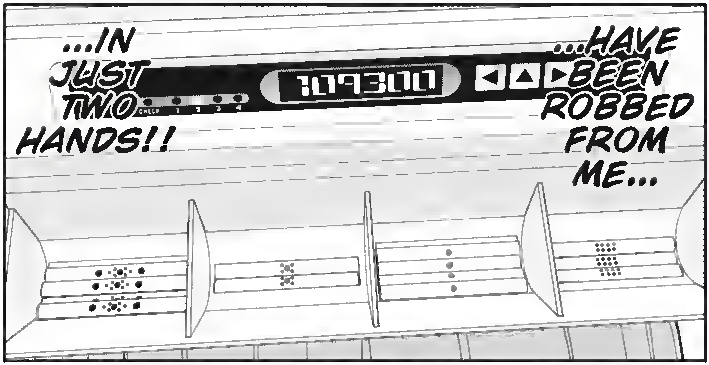

RATTLE
ガラ


BONUS HAND 2.
.....


SHE THREW AWAY A FOUR-SIDED WAIT FOR THAT AGAIN—!?

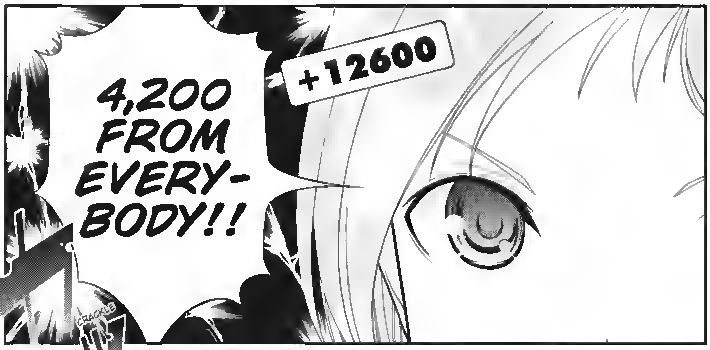

THE SCORING STICKS THAT CAPTAIN ACCUMU-LATED...
...AND YOSHITOME-SENPAI PROTECTED...

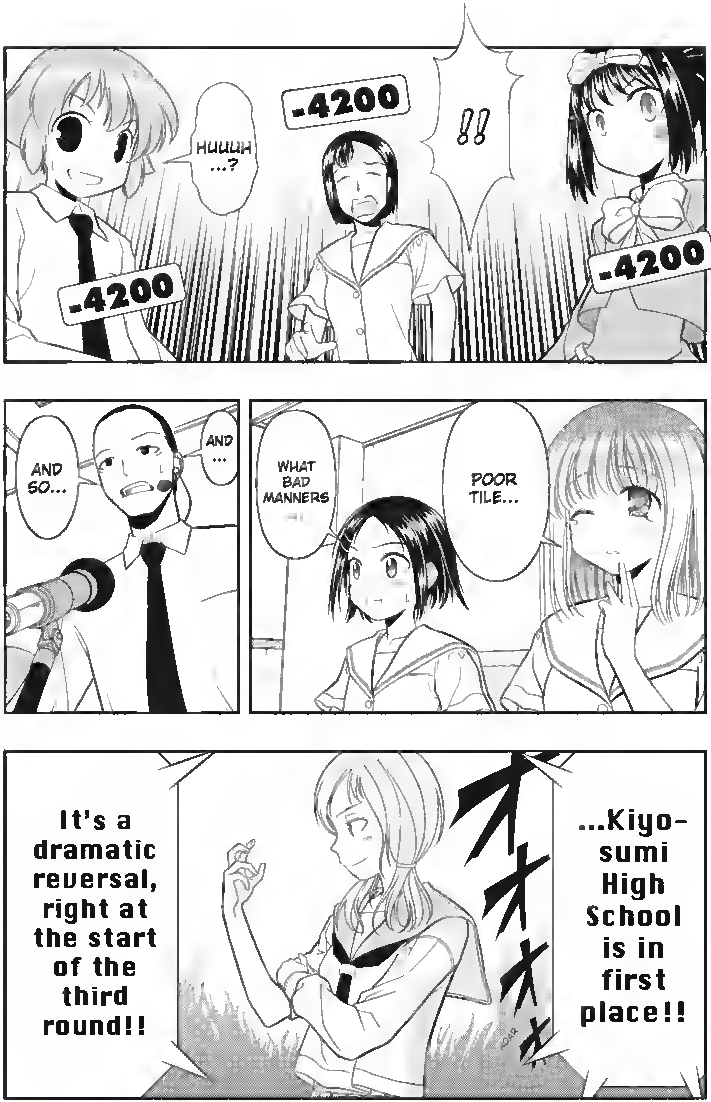
IN NORMAL MAHJONG, I WOULD HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OUT...
RATTLE


...IN JUST TWO HANDS!!
307300
...HAVE BEEN ROBBED FROM ME...

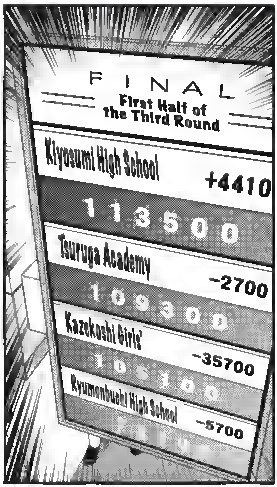
EAST HAND 2, BONUS HAND 2
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FLOUNDERING NOW...
キュッ
ヒュッ
FWISH
!?
ピッ
PLINK
TSUMO!!
FLIP
パラッ

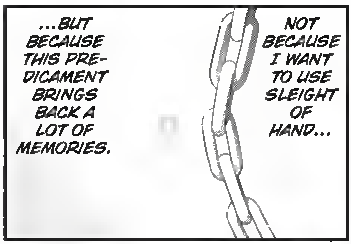
BONK
SWAP
SLAM

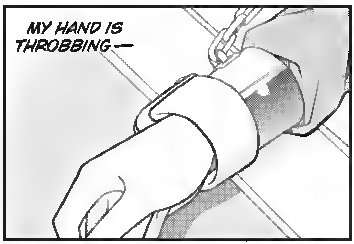

+12600
4,200 FROM EVERY-BODY!!


-4200
HUUUH ...?
-4200
!!
-4200
AND SO...
AND ...
WHAT BAD MANNERS
POOR TILE...
It's a dramatic reversal, right at the start of the third round!!
オオオ
...Kiyosumi High School is in first place!!

.....


FINAL
First Half of the Third Round
Kiyosumi High School
+4410
113500
Tsuruga Academy
-2700
109300
Kazukoshi Girls'
-35700
73600
Ryumonbuchi High School
-5700


...BUT BECAUSE THIS PREDICAMENT BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES.
NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO USE SLEIGHT OF HAND...


MY HAND IS THROBBING—

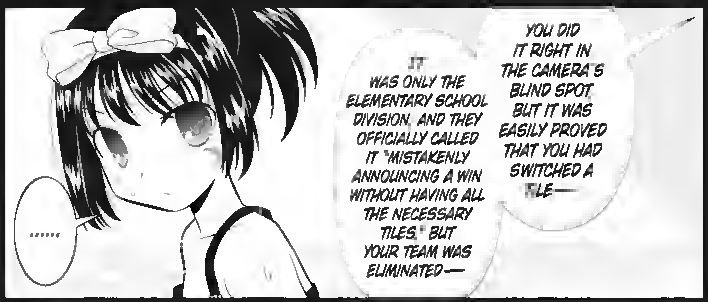
TWO YEARS AGO—

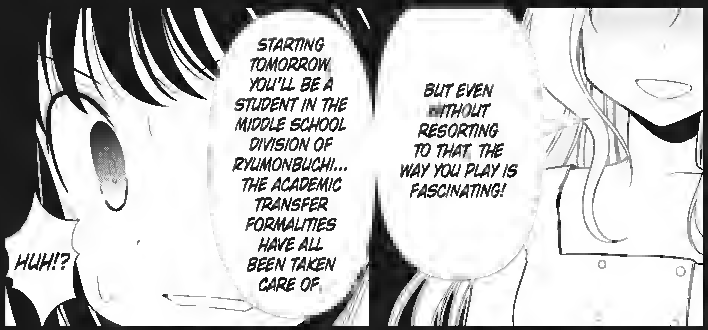
GLINT
FLAP
FLAP
IT'S HOT...
...EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ALREADY INTO SEPTEMBER...
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND TAKE A SHOWER...
HAJIME KUNIHIRO

HAJIME KUNIHIRO-SAN!!
?
WHO ARE YOU?
THUMP
MY NAME IS TOKA RYUMON-BUCHI!
I'VE COME TO GIVE YOU AN INVITATION!!
INVITA-TION—?
YOU INTEND TO MAKE ME DO SOMETHING?
WEIRD PERSON.

!
I WANT YOU TO PLAY MAHJONG WITH ME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS!
TWITCH
I KNOW!
YEAH... SEE, I DON'T PLAY ANYMORE ...
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID...
...THREE YEARS AGO AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT.
TSUUU

YOUR TEAM WAS IN A JAM DURING THE FINALS OF THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER...
...AND TO SAVE THEM, YOU PERFORMED A TRICK THAT YOUR FATHER HAD TAUGHT YOU.


YOU DID IT RIGHT IN THE CAMERA'S BLIND SPOT, BUT IT WAS EASILY PROVED THAT YOU HAD SWITCHED A [illegible]LE—
IT WAS ONLY THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION, AND THEY OFFICIALLY CALLED IT "MISTAKENLY ANNOUNCING A WIN WITHOUT HAVING ALL THE NECESSARY TILES," BUT YOUR TEAM WAS ELIMINATED—
.....


BUT EVEN [illegible]ITHOUT RESORTING TO THAT, THE WAY YOU PLAY IS FASCINATING!
STARTING TOMORROW, YOU'LL BE A STUDENT IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION OF RYUMONBUCHI... THE ACADEMIC TRANSFER FORMALITIES HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
HUH!?

I'VE OBTAINED YOUR FATHER'S PERMISSION TOO. IT SEEMS HE HASN'T BEEN MAKING MUCH OF A LIVING AS A MAGICIAN LATELY.
WHEN YOU PLAY MAHJONG, YOU'LL WEAR THESE RESTRAINTS TO LIMIT YOUR HAND MOVEMENTS.
OUTSIDE OF THAT TIME PERHAPS YOU COULD WORK AS A MAID AT MY HOUSE.

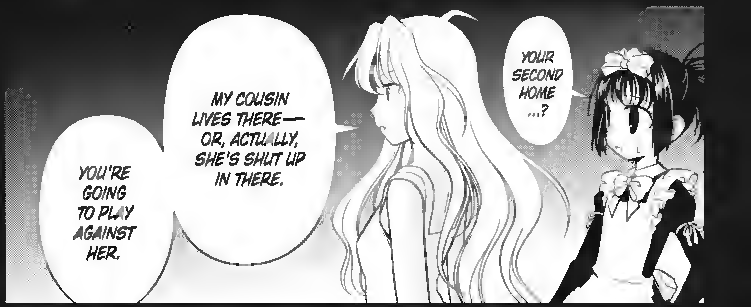
DAD SOLD ME—!?
AND WHO IS THIS PUSHY PERSON ...!?

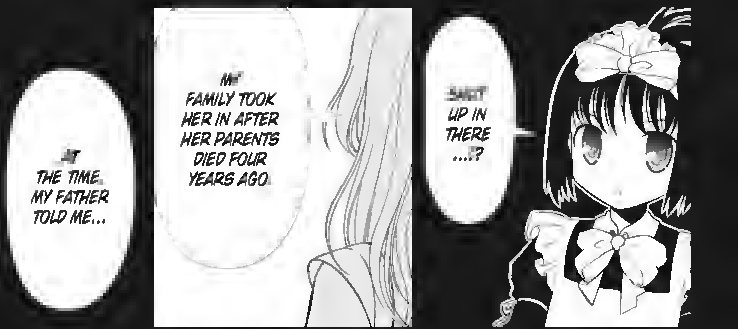
Saki

HAND 23: PURSUIT
WHY DID DAD SELL ME...?
MAYBE HIS ROAD SHOW DIDN'T WORK OUT...

I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE.
...BEING CHAINED UP AND WEARING THIS OUTFIT!?
BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE...
PLAY MAHJONG FROM NOW ON. IF YOU WIN, I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM.
NO.
SO I HAVE TO BEAT YOU?
YOUR NAME IS TOKA, RIGHT?

YOUR OPPONENT IS OVER THERE.


YOUR SECOND HOME ...?
MY COUSIN LIVES THERE— OR, ACTUALLY, SHE'S SHUT UP IN THERE.
YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY AGAINST HER.

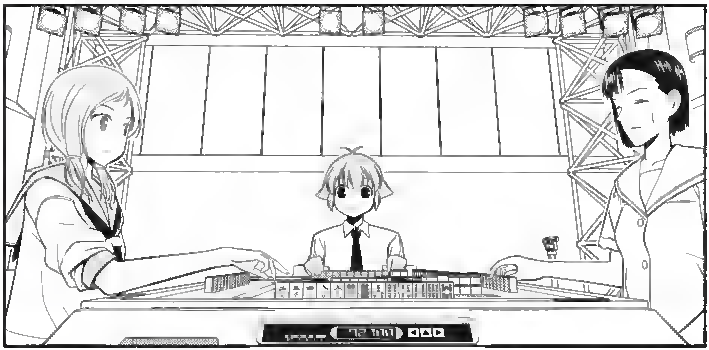

SHUT UP IN THERE ...?
MY FAMILY TOOK HER IN AFTER HER PARENTS DIED FOUR YEARS AGO.
AT THE TIME, MY FATHER TOLD ME...

...“STAY AWAY FROM THE AMAE GIRL.
“SHE IS A CREATURE FAR BEYOND OUR UNDER-STANDING.”
RIDICULOUS. RIGHT?
FATHER IS CONVINCED THE ACCIDENT THAT KILLED AMAE’S PARENTS IS HER FAULT.
CHAK
“!”

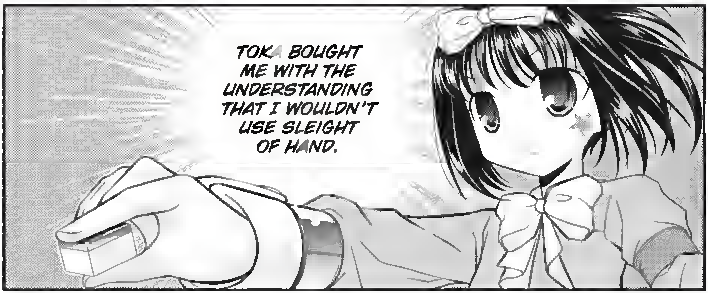
...THE WAY SHE PLAYS SCARES ME A LITTLE.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO [illegible]...
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
KOROMO!
I'VE BROUGHT YOU A NEW TOY.
T-TOY!?
IS THIS ONE UNBREAKABLE?
SHUDDER

IS SHE TO BECOME KOROMO'S BEST FRIEND?
OR A SACRIFICE? OR A SERVANT?

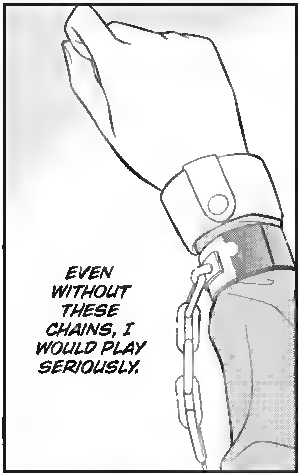
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

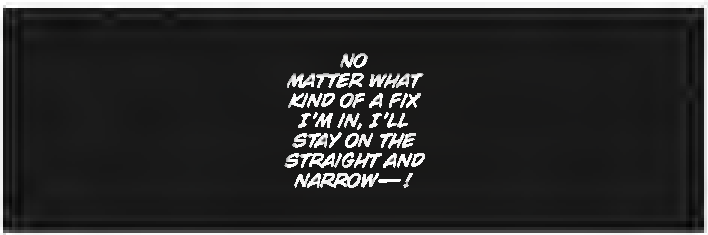


BECAUSE KOROMO IS OUR ACE IN THE HOLE—
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THAT NIGHT.


TOKA BOUGHT ME WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT I WOULDN'T USE SLEIGHT OF HAND.

IF THESE CHAINS ARE NECESSARY TO GAIN TRUST, THEN I SHOULD TAKE THEIR LESSON TO HEART.
I NEVER WANT TO FEEL LIKE I DID THAT DAY AGAIN.

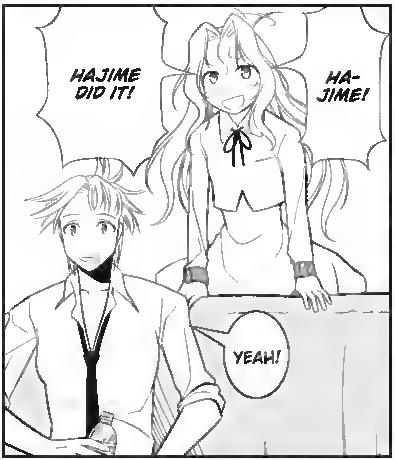

EVEN WITHOUT THESE CHAINS, I WOULD PLAY SERIOUSLY.

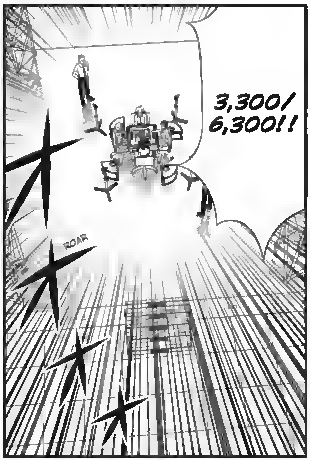

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF A FIX I'M IN, I'LL STAY ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW—!

RIICHI!!
I'LL WIN THIS FAIR AND SQUARE!!

HERE IT COMES ...
TAP
.....
SQUEEZE
...BUT DEFINITELY KNOWS WHEN TO FOLD.
SHE DOES THOSE CRAZY WAITS...
TAP
SMACK
click click click click
ALTHOUGH, I NEVER EXPECTED TO WIN OFF OF HER DISCARD ...
CREAK
CREAK

TSUMO!!

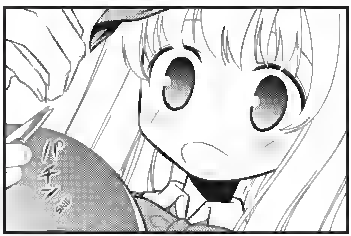

HAJIME DID IT!
HA-JIME!
YEAH!


3,300/6,300!!
ROAR

CHAK
カチャ
TOOO-KAAA!!
?
KORO-MO!
TOOO-KAAA!!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!?
AND WHY ARE YOU CRYING!?
WAAAH!
THIS PENGUIN ...
!
NODOKA HARA-MURA'S PENGUIN!!

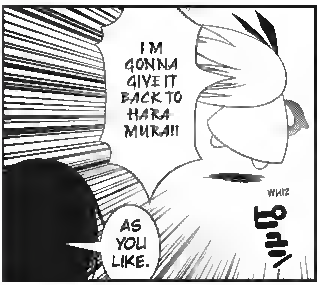
HA-GI-YO-SHI!
SNAP
RIGHT HERE, MILADY!
WHOOSH
AAAH!!
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

PING


SNAP

WHOA!
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

ド


I'M GONNA GIVE IT BACK TO HARA MURA!!!
WHIR
AS YOU LIKE.

HAGIYOSHI, YOU'RE AWESOME! THE PENGUIN HAS RETURNED FROM THE UNDERWORLD!
THERE ARE A FEW PLACES WHERE YOU CAN FEEL THE STITCHES, UNFORTUNATELY.

BUT WHAT IS KOROMO DOING WITH THAT PENGUIN?
I WAS WITH HER AS FAR AS THE ENTRANCE...BUT THEN WE GOT SEPARATED, AND SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

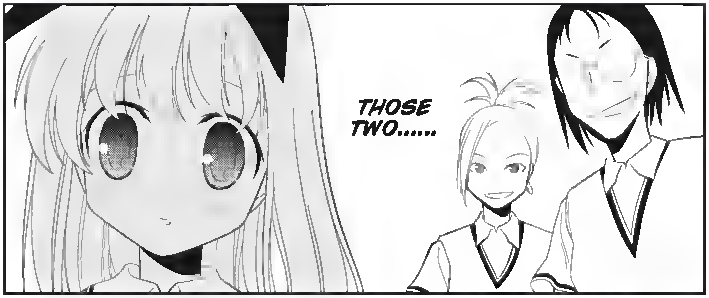
HARA-MURA-AAA! WHERE ARE YOU-UUU!?
THOT
!
AH!
ドテッ
TUMBLE
ポーン
BOING
!
YOU'RE NONOKA HARAMURA, RIGHT?
ETOPEN!

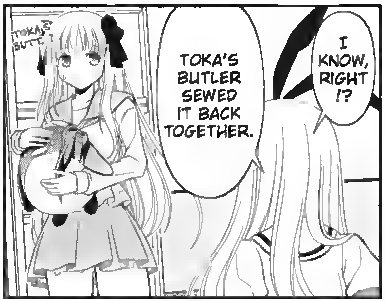
UM...
ABOUT THE PENGUIN ...

I HEARD YOU HAD BIG BOOBS, SO I FIGURED IT WAS YOU!
OH...
SQUEEZE

IT'S FIXED ...

HUH ...?
THE TWO GIRLS WHO STOLE IT CAME AND APOLOGIZED TO ME A FEW MINUTES AGO...
THEY SAID THEY GOT IN A TUG-OF-WAR WITH EACH OTHER OVER IT AND IT GOT PULLED APART OR SOMETHING ...


THOSE TWO.....


TOKA'S BUTLER
TOKA'S BUTLER SEWED IT BACK TOGETHER.
I KNOW, RIGHT!?

BUT THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL KNITTING JOB.

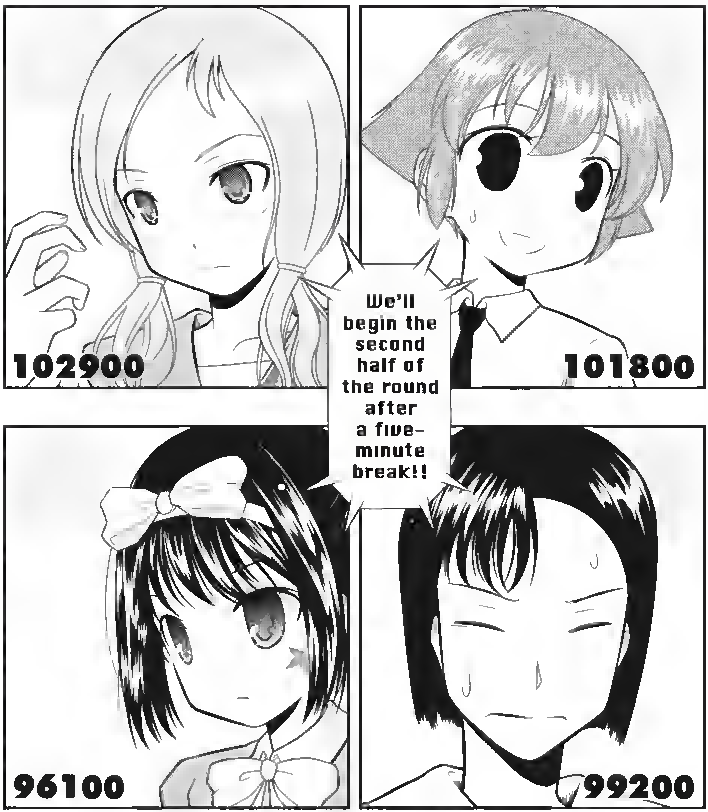
ぽまぁまぁ
BLUSH
YAY!

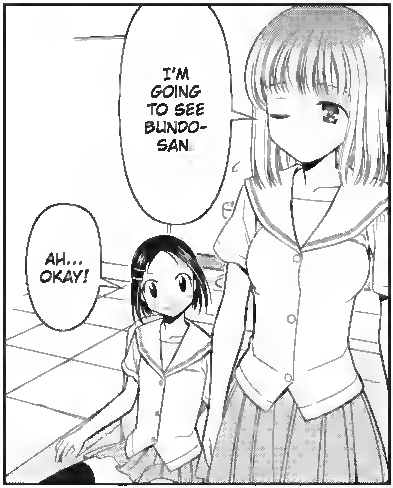
IN ANY CASE, THANK YOU...
...FOR RETURNING IT TO ME.

The first half of the third round is over —!!
Going by the points acquired in this round, it looks like a resounding victory for Kiyosumi High School ...
!?

...but Ryumonbuchi High School has been catching up little by little, and right now, the score for all four schools is about even!
It's like the match has gone back to the starting point!!
PHEW...
WHEN HAJIME PUTS HER MIND TO SOMETHING, SHE CAN DO IT...!
THAT GIRL'S GOT TALENT ...!!
MUNCH
MUNCH
モグ
モグ

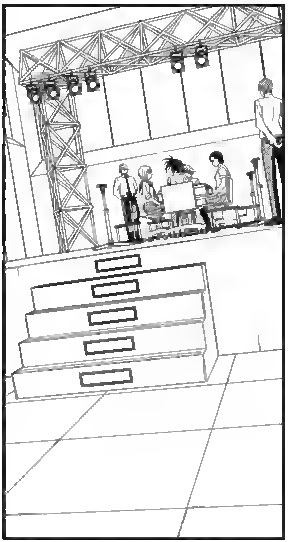
HAND 24: SWITCH

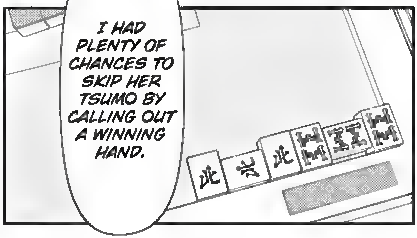


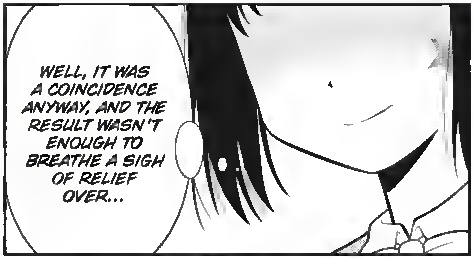

I'M GOING TO SEE BUNDO-SAN.
AH... OKAY!

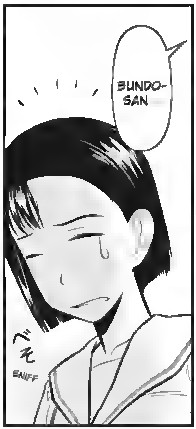
I-IT'S OKAY... I CAN GET US BACK IN THE LEAD...!

MAYBE IT WAS A GOOD THING THAT KIYOSUMI WAS TO MY LEFT IN THE FIRST HALF...



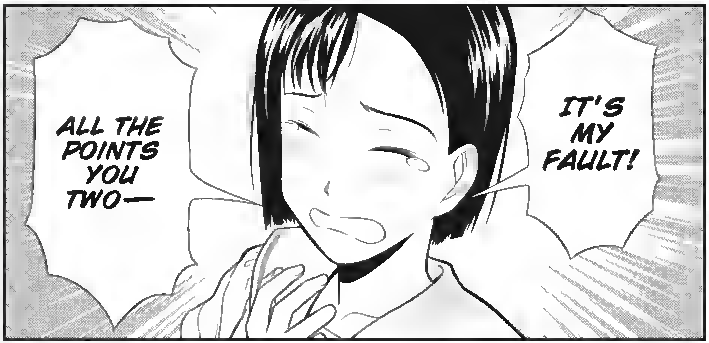

I HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO SKIP HER TSUMO BY CALLING OUT A WINNING HAND.



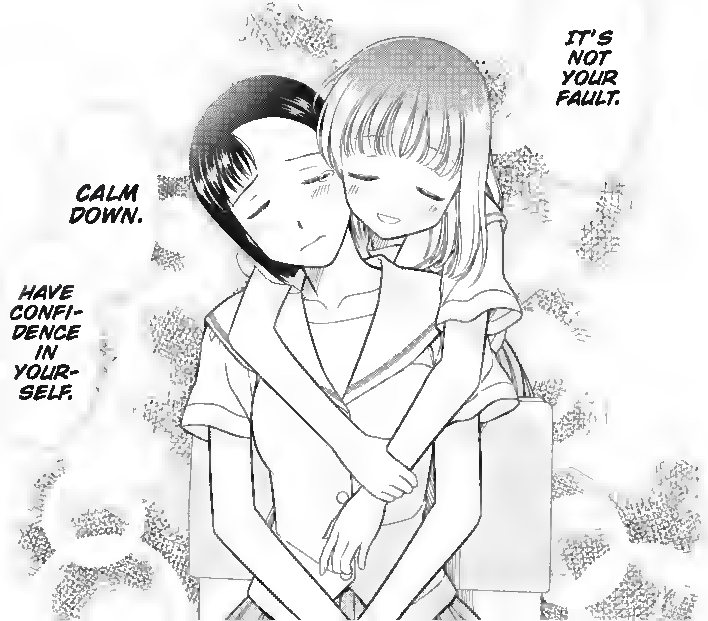


WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?

CAPTAIN!


ALL THE POINTS YOU TWO—
IT'S MY FAULT!

IT'S OKAY—
PWOO
!

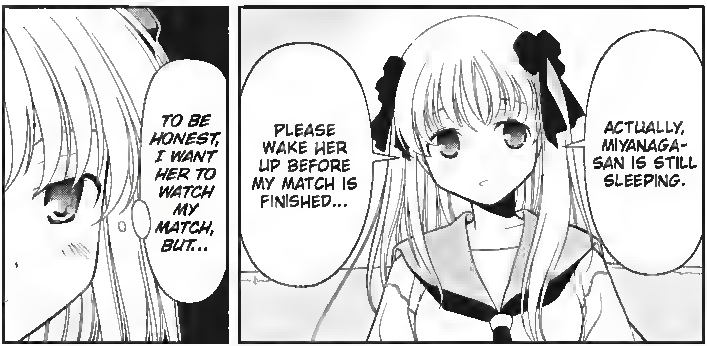

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
CALM DOWN.
HAVE CONFI-DENCE IN YOUR-SELF.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THINGS DON'T GO OUR WAY...
. .BUT DON'T GET WORKED UP ABOUT IT. LET'S JUST HAVE FUN.
AND I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS IS MY FAULT...
WHAT!? OF COURSE IT ISN'T!
コソ
!
CAN I GIVE YOU ONE PIECE OF ADVICE?
OH. .? SURE..
チラ
GLANCE

I KNOW I'VE SEEN KAZE-KOSHI'S CAPTAIN SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
ウーン...
Kiyosumi High School
I'M BACK.
WELCOME BAAACK!
NODO-CHAN!
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD NAP?

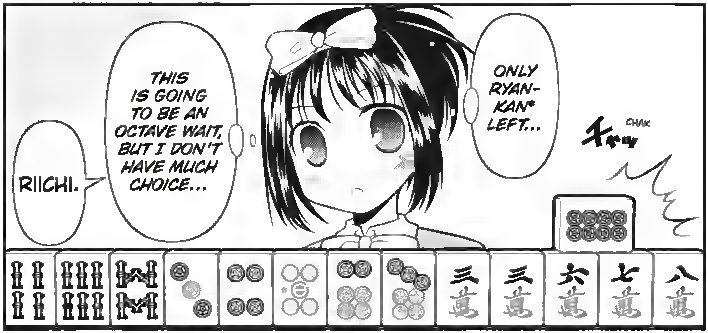
I FEEL REFRESHED. THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTION.
YES.

NODO-CHAN AND SAKI-CHAN WERE TAKING A SIESTA IN THE NAP ROOM!
HUH...? "A GOOD NAP"...?

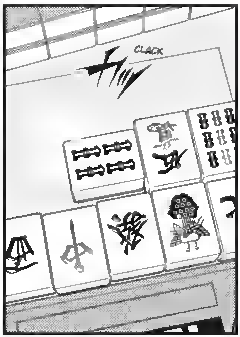

TO BE HONEST, I WANT HER TO WATCH MY MATCH, BUT...
PLEASE WAKE HER UP BEFORE MY MATCH IS FINISHED...
ACTUALLY, MIYANAGA-SAN IS STILL SLEEPING.

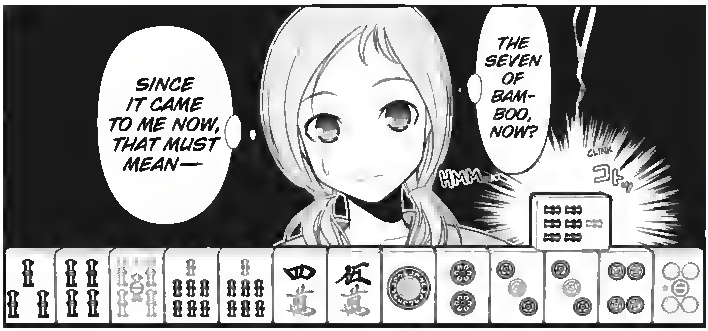
I MESSED UP, SO THE CAPTAIN IS IN THERE NOW, GETTING BACK THE POINTS I LOST...
THE SCORES ARE REALLY CLOSE...
AS USUAL, I'M NER-VOUS WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO THE FINALS ...
AFTER THIS MATCH IS OVER, IT'S MY TURN —
I FORGOT TO ASK THAT GIRL FOR HER NAME...
AH...
.....

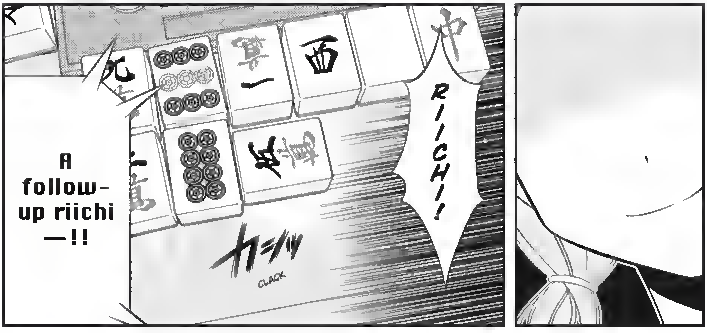
SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD ROUND, SOUTH HAND 2, WEST PLAYER: HISA TAKEI
IT'S GOTTEN HARDER TO WIN OFF OF SOMEONE ELSE'S DISCARD.
HMM..... EVERYONE'S FOLDING WITH SAFE TILES...
Click
SHE SAID THAT IF I SENSE KIYOSUMI HAS THE FIRST TENPAI, I SHOULD DISCARD A LIVE TILE IF I DON'T HAVE ANY SAFE TILES...
BUT I MAY BE ABLE TO TURN THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE.
TAP

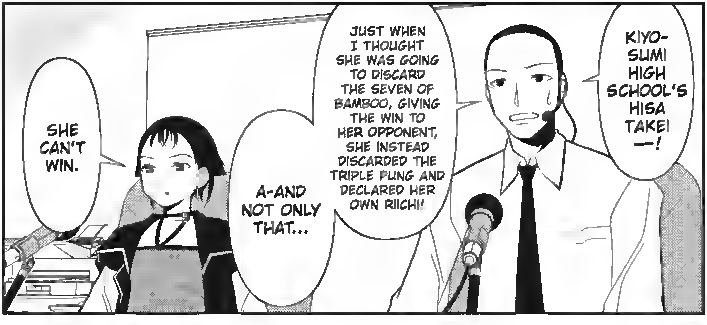


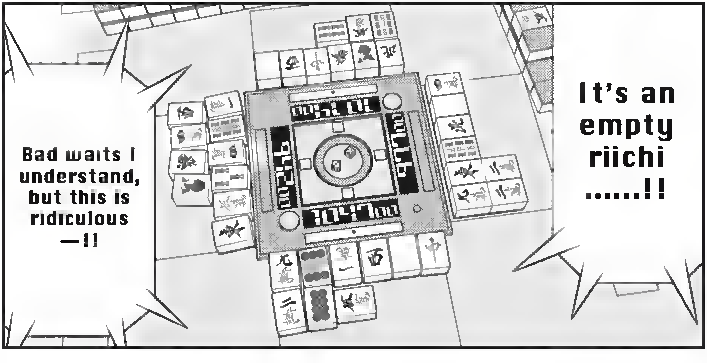
*RYANKAN: A RUN OF THREE ODD OR EVEN TILES



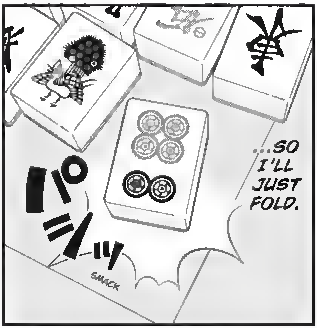


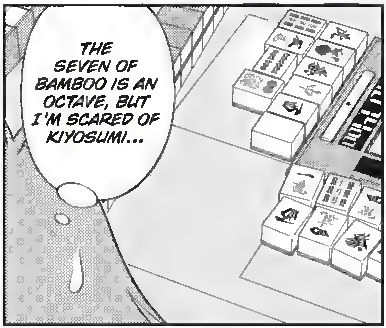

A follow-up riichi —!!
RIICHI!
CLACK

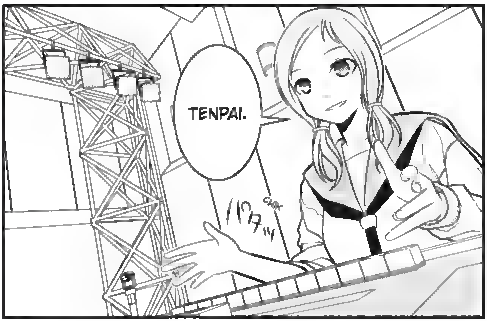

KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL'S HISA TAKEI —!
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO DISCARD THE SEVEN OF BAMBOO, GIVING THE WIN TO HER OPPONENT, SHE INSTEAD DISCARDED THE TRIPLE PUNG AND DECLARED HER OWN RIICHI!
A-AND NOT ONLY THAT...
SHE CAN'T WIN.

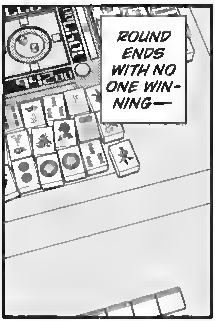

It's an empty riichi .....!!
Bad waits I understand, but this is ridiculous —!!

IS SHE WAITING ON A HAND SO BIG THAT SHE'S NOT EVEN AFRAID OF MY DEALER'S RIICHI...?
IF SHE CALLS THE FIRST RIICHI... OCTAVES AND HONOR TILES WON'T MATTER ANYMORE ...!!
SQUEEZE キュ
IT'S INTIMIDATION BY USING THE SPECTRES OF THE WINS I SHOWED THEM IN THE FIRST HALF...!!
THIS RIICHI ISN'T MEANT TO WIN ...
I STILL NEED TWO MORE TILES..
.....


...SO I'LL JUST FOLD.
SMACK

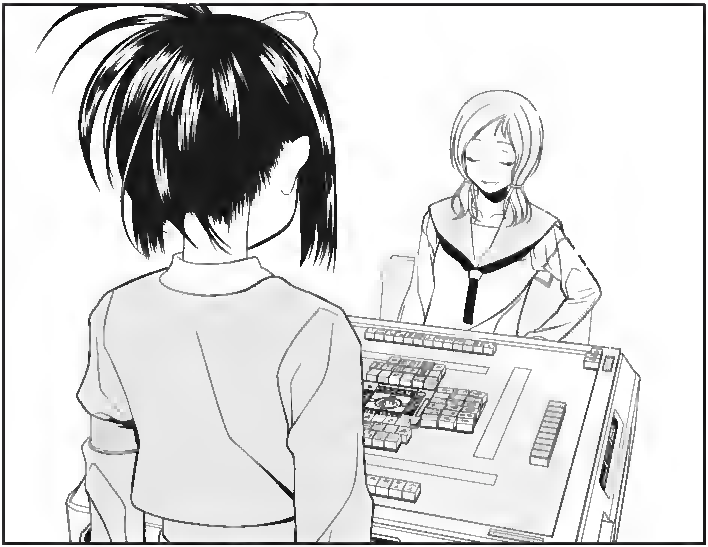

THE SEVEN OF BAMBOO IS AN OCTAVE, BUT I'M SCARED OF KIYOSUMI...

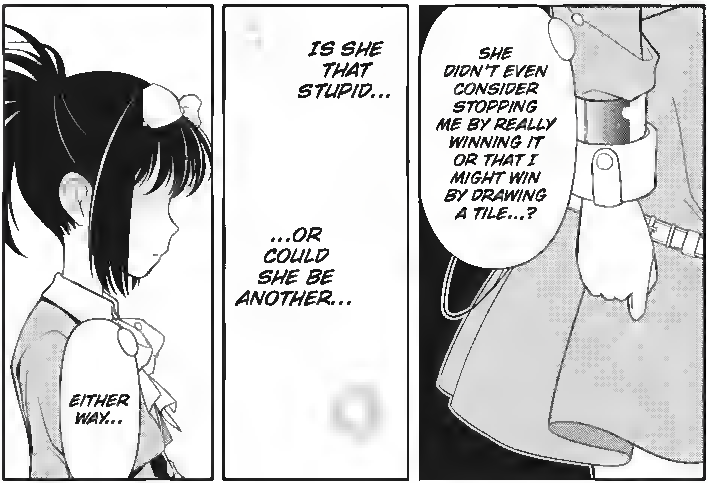

TENPAI.
CLICK


ROUND ENDS WITH NO ONE WINNING—

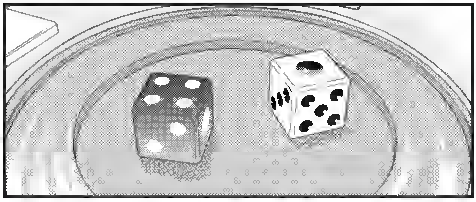
SHE NOT ONLY STOPPED MY HIT TILE, BUT CALLED AN EMPTY RIICHI ...!?

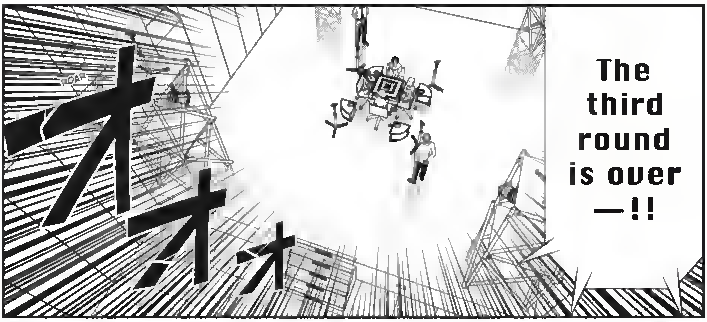
RATTLE
.....!!




SHE DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER STOPPING ME BY REALLY WINNING IT OR THAT I MIGHT WIN BY DRAWING A TILE...?
IS SHE THAT STUPID...
...OR COULD SHE BE ANOTHER...
EITHER WAY...

...SHE CRACKS ME UP!
CHUCKLE
フフフ

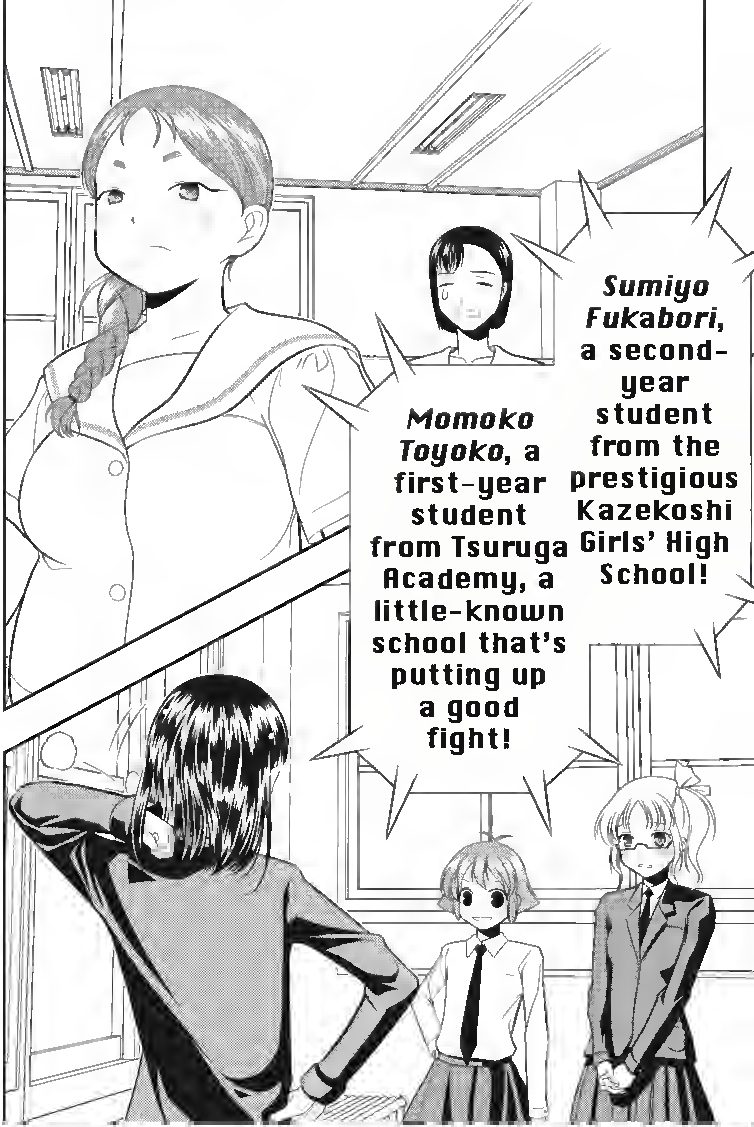


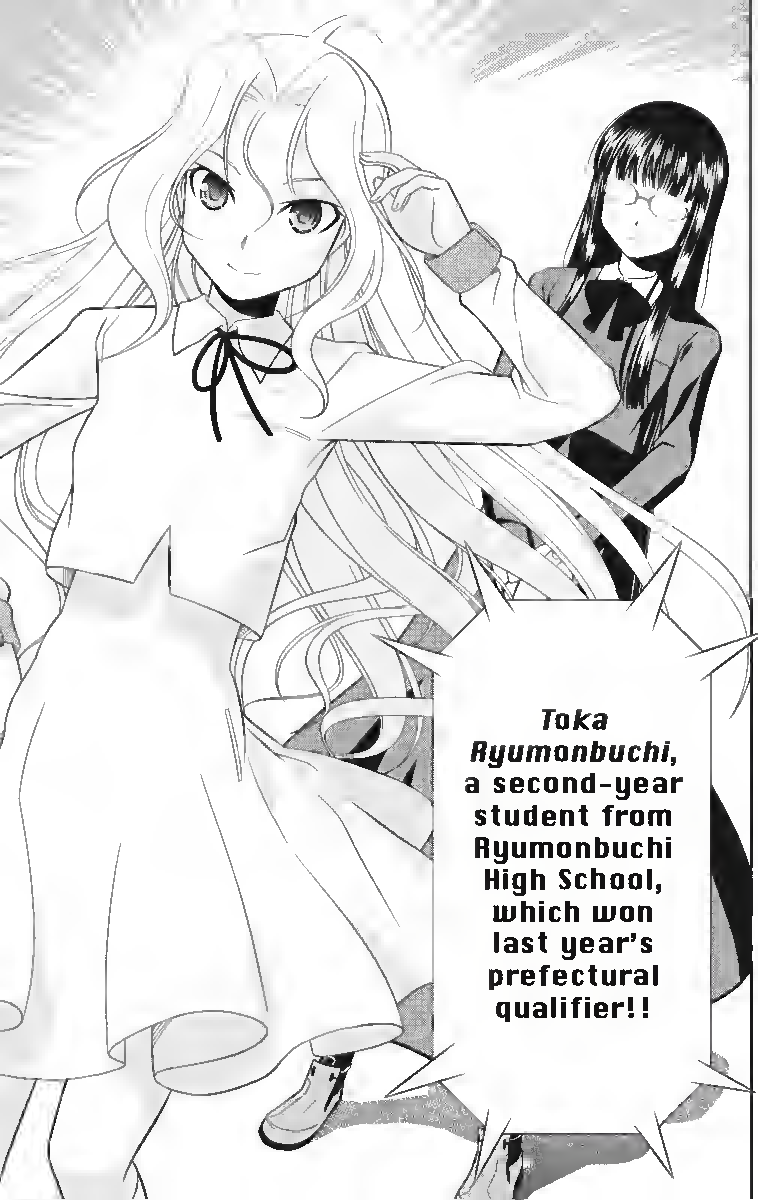

オオオ
The third round is over —!!

KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL 108,500
TSURUGA ACADEMY 93,400
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL 91,800
RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL 106,300
The positions are completely reversed from what they were at the beginning of the third round...What a dramatic switch between first and last place!
The active role Hisa Takei of Kiyosumi High School took was amazing ...!!

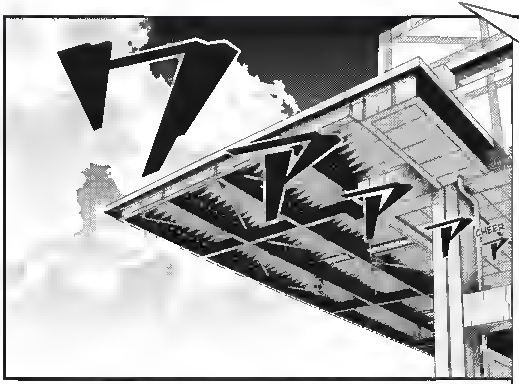
I'M GOING OVER THERE NEXT .....
I'M GOING ...
HUFF!
CLUNK
IT'S ABOUT TO START
CHEER

The National High School Mahjong Tournament prefectural qualifier finals...
Next up is the second to last round!!


Sumiyo Fukabori, a second-year student from the prestigious Kazekoshi Girls' High School!
Momoko Toyoko, a first-year student from Tsuruga Academy, a little-known school that's putting up a good fight!


Toka Ryumonbuchi, a second-year student from Ryumonbuchi High School, which won last year's prefectural qualifier!!

And representing Kiyosumi High School is *Nodoka Haramura*, last year's middle school tournament champion!!
Will her talent see her through in the high school tournament too!?



The match will begin in a moment!!

Saki

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Daisuke Nakano, Mitsuru Matsuo, may

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Yaokin: Cover, background pages 2-3, table of contents (page 4), Harmony
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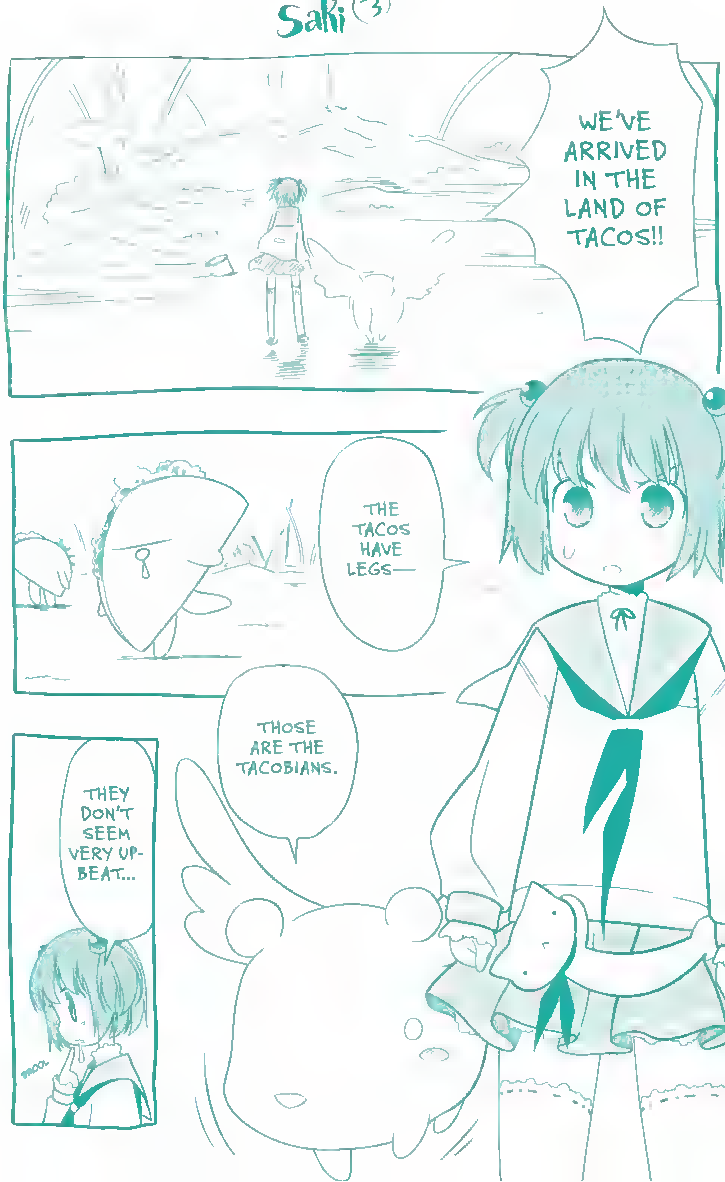
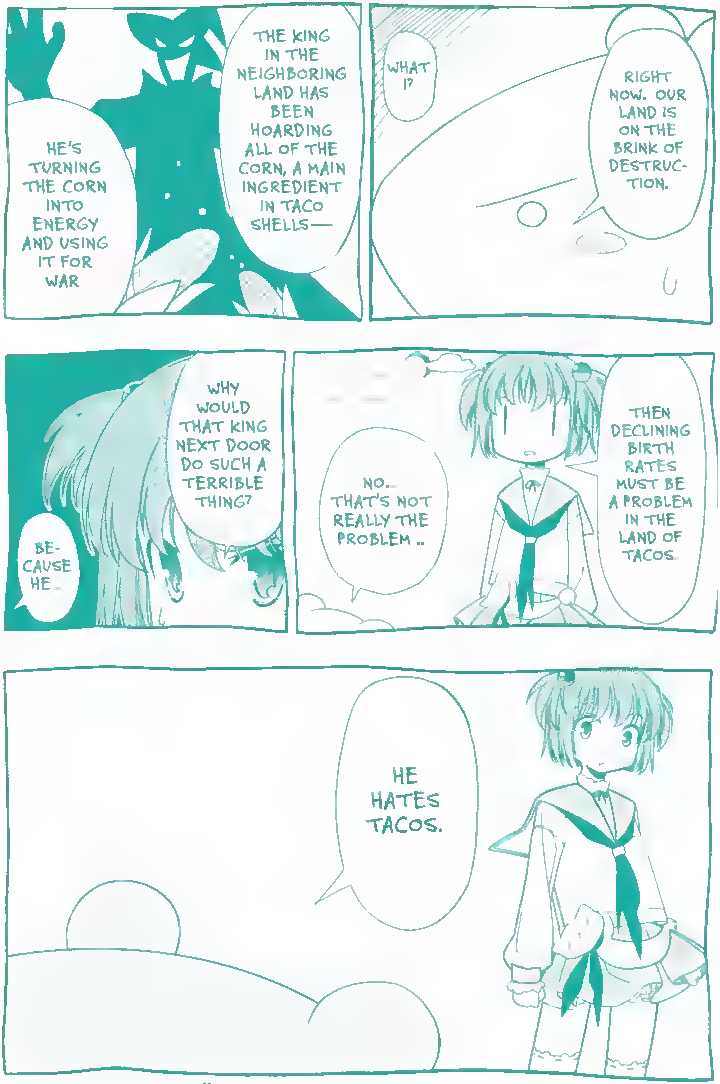

WE'VE ARRIVED IN THE LAND OF TACOS!!
THE TACOS HAVE LEGS—
THOSE ARE THE TACOBIANS.
THEY DON'T SEEM VERY UP-BEAT...
moo.


THE KING IN THE NEIGHBORING LAND HAS BEEN HOARDING ALL OF THE CORN, A MAIN INGREDIENT IN TACO SHELLS—
HE'S TURNING THE CORN INTO ENERGY AND USING IT FOR WAR
WHAT!?
RIGHT NOW, OUR LAND IS ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION.
WHY WOULD THAT KING NEXT DOOR DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING?
BE-CAUSE HE...
NO... THAT'S NOT REALLY THE PROBLEM..
THEN DECLINING BIRTH RATES MUST BE A PROBLEM IN THE LAND OF TACOS.
HE HATES TACOS.

TO BE CONTINUED!!

SAKI 3

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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